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Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Total 28 pages

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Province acts to slow COVID-19 surge

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A new year has brought new provincial restrictions during the fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In-person school will move to online learning for the next two weeks, indoor dining at restaurants will be temporarily closed and all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures will be paused in an effort to preserve the province's healthcare system.

In a Jan. 3 press conference, Premier Doug Ford announced the province would move to a modified Step Two of the government's Roadmap to Reopen, with the new measures beginning Jan. 5 in an attempt to slow a surge of COVID-19 cases that modelling shows will overwhelm hospitals. Ford said public health experts said hundreds of thousands of cases of COVID-19 could be reported every day as the highly-transmissible Omicron variant spreads. He noted the variant is so contagious it can't be stopped, only slowed and that the current pace of spread is not sustainable for hospitals.

"The fact is Omicron spreads like wildfire," he said. "If we don't act, if we don't

see 'HANG page 2



New Year old scenario

The Haliburton County Huskies player Joe Boice, far left, readies to disrupt a breakout play during a practice on Saturday, Jan. 1 held at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. It was the first time the Ontario Junior Hockey League team used the facility and was originally part of a New Year's Day event, which included a public skate with fans. The practice proceeded despite the public skate being cancelled due to COVID-19 protocols implemented by the OJHL recently. /DARREN LUM Staff

Weighing the different health metrics for a return to school

DARREN LUM

Editor

Students all across Ontario will be learning online the next two weeks, as one of the newly announced measures in the

face of rising COVID-19 case counts and the threat to the province's healthcare system.

Premier Doug Ford made the announcement to take the province to a modified version of Step Two of the province's Roadmap to Reopen, which was implemented last year, on Jan. 5 at

12:01 a.m. with his ministers of health and finance, Ontario chief medical officer of health and the CEO of Ontario Health on Monday, Jan. 3.

This decision comes only a few days after the province's chief medical officer of health Dr. Kieran Moore said the return

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'Hang in there and stay safe. We got this.'

from page 1

do everything possible to get this variant under control, the results could be catastrophic. It is a risk I cannot take."

That day, 1,232 people were reported to be in hospital with COVID-19, 248 of those in intensive care units, though not all hospitals reported on the weekend. In Ontario, 13,578 new cases of COVID-19 had been reported although that number does not record accurate numbers due to restrictions put in place Dec. 31 on who can now receive a PCR test, that being high-risk individuals, frontline workers, residents in high-risk settings and other vulnerable populations. Locally according to the health unit's Jan. 3 data, Haliburton County had reported a pandemic-high of 88 unresolved cases of COVID-19, with 54 new cases reported Jan. 3 – the first report since Dec. 30. Within the province, 3.7 million booster shots have been administered to date.

All public and private schools will move to remote learning beginning Jan. 5, until at least Jan. 17, though schools will be open for emergency child care, and to provide in-person instruction for students with 'special education needs' who cannot be accommodated remotely and for staff who are unable to teach from home.

A previous announcement, made on Dec. 30 by chief medical officer of health Dr. Kieran Moore, had said in-person school would still be happening although a start date would be delayed from Jan. 3 to Jan. 5, which Moore said would give time for school staff to be equipped with N95 masks and for the government to deploy 3,000 HEPA filter units to schools.

After the Jan. 3 announcement, a statement from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, the largest

education union in the province said the announcement was "a safer decision than the one made last week, but additional action is still needed."

"As the pandemic surges, the Ford government must invest in infection prevention and control measures that ensure in-person learning can continue safely and sustainably," said ETFO president Karen Brown. "Last week's decision came dangerously close to risking the safety of students and ETFO members. We share the belief that in-person learning is the best and most equitable way for students to learn, but it must be safe."

ETFO called for measures including N95 masks to be available to all education workers; that everyone attending school or campus who could be vaccinated should be vaccinated; that access to booster shots should be prioritized for education workers; that HEPA filters should be installed in all classrooms and shared spaces; that Rapid Antigen Tests should be provided to students and education workers to minimize absenteeism and learning loss; that the paid sick leave program be expanded; that a plan for staff absenteeism due to isolation requirements be provided; and that the province must continue to monitor and report COVID-19 cases/outbreaks in schools, which the government had announced on Dec. 30 it would stop doing.

In the Q and A portion of the press conference, Ford and provincial officials did not offer specific responses to reporters' questions about when other safety measures were expected to be put in place at schools.

As of Jan. 5, social gatherings are limited to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors; organized public events are limited to five people indoors; businesses and organizations are required to ensure employees work remotely unless they need to be on-site; retail settings including shopping malls are permitted at 50 per cent capacity; per-

sonal care services, public libraries, outdoor establishments and boat tours are permitted at 50 per cent capacity.

Across the county, restaurants reacted swiftly to the announcement.

The Kosy Korner posted, "Tuesday is our last day. Twenty per cent off all food for dine in or take out, one day only. See you on the other side – stay safe." They expected to reopen after the duration of restrictions.

"Well, here we go again," read a Jan. 3 post including a photo of a take-out sign on the Mill Pond restaurant's Facebook page. "Who would have thought that two years ago when my friend Bill made me this sign for in front of the restaurant I'd still be using it today. Thanks buddy, it's become a fixture around here. Hopefully one day I can make it into a table top and only look at it to remember these crazy times we lived through."

Jan. 4 was the last day for the Mill Pond's table service, with the restaurant opening for take-out only on Jan. 5 as per the new guidelines.

"I'll be posting our specials daily again and keeping in touch with everyone," reads the post. "Hang in there and stay safe. We got this."

Some restaurants had already closed due to staff being close contacts with people who had tested positive.

An expanded Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program for businesses affected by restrictions was also announced on Jan. 3, with some businesses being reimbursed 100 per cent of property tax and energy costs if ordered to close, and those that must reduce capacity receiving a rebate payment for half those costs.

The new restrictions are expected to remain in place until at least Jan. 26, when Moore said hospital admissions were expected to peak.

Parents who value in-person learning see broad benefits

from page 1

from school holidays would start on Wednesday, which would enable schools the time to provide N95 masks to staff and to distribute 3,000 HEPA filter units.

Ford said returning to a modified version of Step Two was a difficult decision, but necessary.

"This may be a bump in the road. A pretty big bump, as I said, we're going to get hit like a tsunami. I also said brace for impact because some people don't understand the volume that's going to hit us," he said.

He claimed there could be hundreds of thousands of cases each day, so one per cent of those requiring hospitalization would overwhelm health care without these measures, including the two-week return from holiday. He cited Ontario Health modeling that indicates hospitals could be thousands of beds short in the coming weeks with the current rate of cases.

"The level of absenteeism we're seeing in other sectors tells us with absolute certainty that operating schools ensuring teachers are on the job and not home sick will be a challenge we cannot overcome in the short term," Ford said. "These two weeks will provide much needed time for more vaccines, more boosters, it's more time for additional public health measures to blunt the rapid rise in cases and I know online learning is not ideal, but above all else I want to provide students and parents with certainty, not the turmoil of school closures because not enough staff are available to teach our kids."

He recognized this decision will disappoint, confuse and anger, but said it was based on how transmissible the Omicron variant is, which he said spreads like "wild-fire."

After repeated attempts by reporters, government officials would not answer questions about specific steps (outside of what has been done already) that will be taken in the next two weeks to ensure a safe return for students to publicly funded and private schools scheduled on Jan. 17.

Locally, parents were bracing for this news, as it was being leaked Sunday night.

Lauren Wilson, a mother to four elementary aged children, was ready to send her children back this week to J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School where they are all registered in French immersion.

"They are all vaccinated and I believe the social aspect of school is as important, if not more, than the in-person learning. My four children are all looking forward to going back to school," she wrote in a message.

Wilson, a health professional, trusts in the effectiveness

of the vaccinations.

Her two 12-year-old twins are fully vaccinated, and her two nine-year-old twins will soon join them to get their second dose in the coming week.

Learning a language and developing social skills is something that can't be done in isolation, she adds.

"The fact that they are in French immersion makes in-person learning that much more [valuable]. I believe the French component had definitely suffered for my youngest because of the stop/start of the school year," she wrote. "The social aspect is vital and teaches them cooperation, conflict resolution, group work, acceptance, inclusion - most of which can't necessarily be gained from online learning. As well, just the ability for the kids to run around outside at recess with friends and simply be a kid!"

There are also, she adds, lessons in time management that are only tested with in-person learning such as how her children need to develop "basic skills of organizing the day versus rolling out of bed at 8:55 a.m. in pj's to sit in front of a screen all day."

Leah Thomas, who is a mother with a daughter attending Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden, concurred with Wilson about the benefits of in-person learning.

"She really struggled with online learning and we do not have access to unlimited internet where we live, so that was also a struggle. It is important for my child to be in class learning and socializing safely with her peers. I believe that the school works hard to make sure our children are thriving the best they can in the world we are dealt with right now, while also ensuring that they are being safe and staying healthy," she wrote in an online message. "I also have taken the time to talk to my daughter about her preference and she would much rather be in school interacting with her friends than stuck at home. So as a family we have made the decision to send her back to school."

There were 329 students who committed to online learning using Learn@Home back in June.

It's been reported the provincial government will stop collecting COVID-19 case numbers from school boards and suspend the reporting of new coronavirus infections among students and staff starting this week. This was included in a memo from the Ministry of Education, which was sent to school board officials on Thursday, Dec. 30, the same day the province announced the return to school would be Jan. 5, two days after the original return date. This change was attributed to changes to case and contact management. Reports of school and

child-care closures due to COVID-19 were expected to continue according to the ministry. COVID-19 cases in Ontario schools have been reported for the last 18 months. There has been 12,062 COVID-19 school related cases, including 10,582 infections among students, which were reported between Aug. 2 and Dec. 24 of 2021.

Wilson, who doesn't fully believe the numbers really tell the entire picture, said the benefits of in-person learning make it worthwhile, particularly with how she has had her children vaccinated and have had their social circles limited.

"My feeling is that in person learning is so important that it outweighs the risk of sending them to school. At this point, the numbers are so skewed (delays in reporting, under reporting, asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spreading, false negatives of rapid tests, etc) that the COVID case numbers related to school would not be accurate at this point. The numbers mean nothing without context and if the media would focus on the fact that vaccinations are working - that is, keeping people out of ICUs and preventing COVID-related deaths, then people wouldn't be as focused on the daily increase in cases," she wrote.

Thomas appreciates the availability of information and said it's within the right of all parents to know what is happening at their children's schools.

"Communication is key. And if these case numbers are reported it gives the parents a chance to make the decision whether or not to keep sending their child or opt for online learning. I believe that should be a choice because many families have different views and should be informed of the case numbers for sure. I know I would like to know," she wrote.

A day before the press conference with the premier, the possibility of a two-week delay to the restart of school wasn't going to surprise either Thomas or Wilson.

Thomas wasn't angry about the two-day delay, acknowledging the likelihood for an adjustment period.

"I hear children will be put back into cohorts and given a designated area for outdoor time like before, I imagine all that needs preparation. With that being said we are definitely preparing for a further delay as it seems to be a recurring trend the last couple of years," she wrote.

Wilson was still processing the possibility, but didn't think two days made much sense anyway.

"As a working parent, it's difficult when the kids are at home and I can't always be here but we made it work before and we will make it work again," she wrote.

Routine, sense of purpose key to coping this winter

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

Winter – the coldest, darkest time of the year. Where the holidays can be difficult for many, the long trudge towards springtime can be even worse for those who have concerns about their mental health.

With the prevalence of the ongoing pandemic and the rise of the Omicron variant, it can be easy to lose sight of any semblances of hope. Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)'s Haliburton, Kawartha, and Pine Ridge branch, points the cause to COVID fatigue and overall burnout. He says that while caregiver burnout is common for healthcare professionals, he has seen a crossover of people reporting burnout over the course of the pandemic.

"It's so easy to fall into this ... thought pattern of 'it's never going to improve, it's never going to get better,'" Veitch said.

He said the burnout comes from the loss of control that the pandemic has introduced into people's lives. Veitch says one way to reassert some measure of control is by taking stock of daily habits, and practicing self-care.

"Trying to find the things that work for you, for your wellness, focusing on things that you can control," he said. "So much of that is in my sleep, it's in my diet, it's in my ... having hobbies, interests, a sense of purpose – routine, and structure."

He also said exercise, especially in Haliburton County, is also an important booster for mental health. Even light exercise, he says, can help.

"What I do know about my friends and colleagues

in Haliburton County and the surrounding area is they love being outside ... especially in the winter. It doesn't have to be like ... going for a run, or an intense workout. Just going for a walk with snowshoes, going for a hike," he said. "Even going out ice fishing, which I know is a big thing out that way is 'okay well, I've gotta load up the snowmobile, load up the truck, I gotta get my stuff together, wake up, have breakfast, get going'. All the little things that go into that sense of purpose."

Veitch says that while there's less light and fewer things to do, one of the benefits of Haliburton County and the surrounding area is the abundance of winter activities.

"Ice fishing, snowshoeing, getting out, going for the walk, whatever we're going to do," he said, listing off the various activities. "Doing those things outside that we can do to be active, they're going to be great ... I always say don't think of exercise as going to the gym, necessarily. Think of it as being out and active and moving around."

For those with mobility issues, Veitch said home workouts are also viable.

"There are things that can be done, even for those that have those mobility issues to help," he said. He adds relying on hobbies can help fulfill a sense of purpose and control.

For those who are isolated and may have an absence of people to connect with, Veitch talks about the work of Peterborough's Telecare Distress Centre.

"Telecare is a toll-free number you can call and reach out just to talk to somebody, just have someone to connect with and talk to again," he said. "Sometimes it's just as simple as that... It's hard to meet new people, especially during COVID."

Veitch adds the Four County Critical Crisis line is for

cases that are critical or urgent.

Inversely, Veitch suggested reaching out to individuals one might believe are isolated, just to check in and talk.

"Can I reach out and call somebody I know that might be isolated? Can I check in on an elderly family member, on a friend, on a neighbour, just to check in and be like 'hey, how are they doing'?" Veitch said, referring to checking in by phone or outdoors. "Maybe again focusing on making that call to help out, that little bit of giving back or connecting just to check in with somebody else. It's going to be helpful for them, and it's going to be helpful to you and your own mental health."

Veitch said that in terms of the pandemic, he's still optimistic that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

"I really do believe that so much of this really is ... about people coming together, being supportive in communities, working together to create solutions and finding ways just to help each other. And hard times like what we're facing are some of the times we can find new ways to thrive," he said. "Is there still light at the end of the tunnel? One hundred per cent."

He said he was additionally optimistic because of the tools we have available to us that we didn't have at the start of the pandemic, including safety measures and vaccines.

"Just because I have a step backwards doesn't mean I can't recognize the 15 steps I took forward before."

Anybody who feels socially isolated can speak to someone through the Telecare Distress Centre of Peterborough by calling 705-745-2273. The Four County Crisis hotline can be reached at 705-745-6484.

Local vendors encouraged to join Farmers' Market

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

Amid the coldest days of winter, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market is thinking about spring ... and hoping to find new local vendors.

The application process for vendors who wish to have tables this coming season has started. To apply fill out a form at <https://betahcfma.wordpress.com> by Jan. 31.

This year the market is especially encouraging new local agricultural producers and "backyard growers" to apply.

New market manager Lauren Phillips said, traditionally, many of the market's vendors are from rural areas to the south, such as Lindsay or Buckhorn, likely because there's more prime agricultural land there. She's hoping to have more Haliburton County growers on board this year. She encourages people who may have just a small farm or a few products that they grow to apply. For those who may not be able to commit to selling on every market day, there's also a "community table" which several small businesses can share throughout the year.

The first market of the season is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17 at Head Lake Rotary Park in Haliburton. The market then opens at the Minden Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 21. Starting on June 17, the market will also be held weekly at the Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall on North Shore Road.

There is no shortage of good reasons to support the market, Phillips said.

"You're supporting the local economy and your community," she said. "It's a great draw for tourists and for locals. The market has something for everyone, from kids, to dogs, to grandparents."

"It's nice to do as a family outing," she said, adding that the Haliburton market takes place with the fabulous backdrop of the lake. "It's fun to go for a walk and see what everyone is making."

The Haliburton and Minden markets usually have 20 to 25 vendors; the Stanhope one is usually a little smaller.

Among the regular vendors are Raisin the Root, a Haliburton County-based business that sells vegan and gluten-free food. There's also McLean Berry Farm, a well-known business for in-season berries, including strawberries.

Arts and crafts are also sold at the markets, but to comply with Farmers' Markets Ontario regulations, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market must have more than half of its vendors selling agricultural products.

Those who participate in the market are also carrying out a long and popular tradition. On any given market day, the market can see 1,000 to 1,500 customers, Phillips said. She estimates that more than 20,000 customers attended over the course of last year.

COVID-19 had impacted their operations somewhat – the tables may be more spread out now – but the market is an essential service. If anything, the pandemic might be resulting in more traffic, she said. Local residents have less ability to travel far away and are choosing to stay

and shop local.

"We definitely saw a lot of tourists last summer; people coming from all over Ontario, stopping in Haliburton. There were cottagers and day trippers; there definitely seems to be more domestic travel."

She also stressed how impactful it is to support local vendors. Buying locally, she explained, lessens the need for imported food, which leads to less transportation and less carbon footprint. At the same time, it supports the local economy. "It's a direct economy," she said. "There is no middle man."

For more information on the market visit, betahcfma.wordpress.com.

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Haliburton County Huskies defenceman Jonah Cochrane slides on the ice, attempting to block a pass from Toronto Jr Canadiens forward Zev Podolski during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Sunday, Jan. 2 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies lost 2-1. /ALEX GALLACHER Staff



Canadiens Down Huskies in controversial finish

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton County Huskies entered 2022 riding a six-game winning streak. With the last two matches against Caledon and Mississauga being postponed due to COVID-19, the Huskies were eager to get back on the ice Jan. 2, at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

The story heading into the game, was that starting Huskies netminder Christian Cicigoi would be out of the lineup and in his place backup Christian Linton got the nod. In his first game since the Ontario Junior Hockey League Governors' Showcase, Linton wanted to make a good impression on the reduced capacity crowd.

In the first period, Huskies forward Oliver Tarr was pelting Canadiens netminder Shelby Warren with shot after shot. An incredibly physical game, both teams traded blows with players such as Joe Boice, Nick Athanasakos and Ryan Hall stepping up to make big hits for the blue and white.

The Canadiens responded with a few good scoring chances of their own, the best of the period being one near-goal by Eric Vitale, who rang a shot off the cross-bar. The teams headed back to the locker room tied 0-0.

Tarr got the game's first goal at 10:58 in the second period. After a bad turnover by the Canadiens gave Tarr free open space in front of the net, he made no mistake burying it for the 1-0 lead and his 24th goal of the season.

With the Huskies up by one, a fire lit under the bellies of the Canadiens and fans at the Nesbitt were in for a very controversial finish.

After Huskies defenceman Alex Pasternak took an interference call, the Canadiens got on the board. The Canadiens' Matthew Wilde found some open space in the slot, going post and in on Linton to tie the game up at one apiece. Two minutes later and Tyler Fukafusa would feed Christian Catalano for a one-timer to give the Canadiens the lead.

As the minutes ticked down, the Huskies pulled their goalie mounting an all-out assault on Warren. As the players hacked away at the puck, Tarr knocked the puck in as the whistle blew to stop the play. The fans and Huskies players started to celebrate, but the goal

was waved off by the officials as they claimed the net had been dislodged.

To the ire of both the players and head coach Ryan Ramsay, Tarr had argued the net wasn't off when the puck had gone in while others argued the net wasn't even off to begin with. Regardless, the pleas of the Huskies went in vain as the Canadiens held on for the 2-1 win. As the final whistle blew a major scrap broke out involving, most notably, Huskies players Nathan Porter and Peyton Schaly among others.

While the result didn't play out in favour of the Huskies, Linton was still very excited to be back playing in front of a home crowd. Stopping 27 of 29 shots, Linton put on a great performance in goal.

"It felt good to be back," Linton said. "I think we played well defensively for the most part, we got quite a bit of chances but we just gotta focus on hitting the net. Just wish we could've walked away with the 'W' tonight."

The Huskies will be back Jan. 7 when they take on the Mississauga Chargers for the first time in team history. Game time will be 7:30 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden.

Op-ed/Letter to the Editor

A true community effort

on behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame (HHSHF), I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the incredible community support we have received during the process of the creation of the Hall of Fame. The Hall is proud to be part of the Haliburton County Community Co-Operative and we very much appreciate the support of Jim Blake, who chairs the co-operative.

To our media partners, the *Haliburton County Echo* and the *Minden Times*, the *Highlander*, Canoe FM and Moose FM, we want to express a very special thank you. Your coverage has really helped put the Hall of Fame into the minds of our community. From the very beginning you have been so helpful and encouraging. We would not have been as successful at this point, without you.

To our founding sponsors Curry Chevrolet and Minden Subaru, we add a special thanks. It has made our initial plans easier knowing we had funding to move forward and to accomplish our goals.

To our donors, we want all of you to know how much we appreciate the help you have provided. All of us on the Hall of Fame Committee have been thrilled to see the outpouring of financial support along with important donations of labour from local contractors. Thank you all so very much.

We also want to recognize the support of the Municipality of Dysart et al. Dysart's council has been very supportive of our proposed Hall of Fame project. Not only have they agreed to allow us to redecorate the stage as a display area in the auditorium of the A.J. LaRue Community Centre but also provided important funding and labour to help us make this space appropriate for the Hall of Fame. We have also been very fortunate to have Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy appointed as the council's representative to our committee. Pat has been very supportive and the committee appreciates his outstanding advice and guidance along the way.

We are very excited to welcome our initial class of inductees, including athletes, builders and teams to the newly created Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame as soon as the COVID issues will allow. We have June 18 on hold and sincerely hope we will be able to have our first Induction Ceremony at that time.

We have no doubt that our fantastic Highlands community support will help us welcome these amazing athletes, builders and teams as they join the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall Of Fame. Thank you everyone.

Roger Trull
Chair HHSHF Committee

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Haliburton Trail Riders (HTA) president Scott Crichton, in grey shirt, presents a \$5,000 cheque to district chief Brian Horner of Highlands East Station 3 in Gooderham on Dec. 20. The donation is meant to help the station raise money for a new side-by-side offroad vehicle. Pictured are volunteer firefighters Michael Purdon, at back from left, Jacob Ulrich, Quentin Sidore, district chief Brian Horner, HTA president Scott Crichton, volunteer firefighters Cody Lawrence, Bill Hunter, and Clint Glover. At front, Donna Simmons, from left, Amber MacDuff, Sandra Dabrowski, and Angela Gregg. /SUBMITTED

Christmas comes to Gooderham's Station 3 Firefighters

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

The spirit of giving came to the Station 3 Volunteer Fire Department in Gooderham shortly before Christmas on Dec. 20, in the form of Scott Crichton, president of the Haliburton Trail Riders (HTR).

Entirely volunteer run and non-profit, HTR is an off-road motorcycle club that promotes safe, family-friendly off-road motorcycling, with special attention to maintaining the trails in an environmentally responsible manner.

Crichton presented a \$5,000 donation to the fire department's bottle drive, which has been raising money to fund a replacement off-road side-by-side vehicle for better access to trails in the event of an emergency. The station has been running a bottle drive, with funds going directly to the Highlands East Station 3 Firefighter's Association.

Chris Baughman is the fire chief for Highlands East, which Gooderham's Station 3 is part of. He oversees approximately 50 volunteer personnel across the five stations, including Gooderham.

"It's quite a significant donation, and it's always appreciated," Baughman said. He said the donation will allow the station to spend that money on whatever replacement and equipment upgrades or replacements it needs, including the side-by-side they're hoping to acquire.

"We do have a scheduled replacement for a side-by-side unit for off-road recovery and medical calls on the trails," he said. "It's to upgrade that so they can attach a stretcher, and just to make the rescues more convenient and ... probably more comfortable for the client."

He said that while such rescues weren't common, they did still happen.

"They are difficult," he said. "We do several of them a year, not just in Gooderham."

“

When incidents do occur, we want to ensure our first responders have the tools and equipment they need to perform their job safely, efficiently, and successfully.

— Scott Crichton, HTR president

The department has two side-by-side units already in other parts of the municipality – one in the Paudash Lake area, and the other in Highland Grove. Baughman says the third would help fill the gap in the Gooderham area.

The HTR has been active since 2008, and has made several contributions to communities around Highlands East. Crichton explained the club's rationale for the contribution.

"When riding trails, safety is paramount, not only to HTR members, but to all trail user groups," Crichton said in his speech to the volunteers of Station 3 who were in attendance. "When incidents do occur, we want to ensure our first responders have the tools and equipment they need to perform their job safely, efficiently, and successfully. HTR are pleased to make a donation that ensures this happens."

You can follow the Haliburton Trail Riders on Facebook, or by visiting their website at haliburtontrailriders.ca.

The Haliburton East Station 3 bottle drive remains ongoing. Anyone interested in making a donation can do so directly at the drop box in front of the station.

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Published by White Pine Media Corp



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

What's old is new again

WHATEVER THE new normal will be we're far from it.

Omicron and a reactive provincial government instead of a pro-active one has contributed to that.

In light of the provincial government's announcement on Monday of a temporary return to modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen life is definitely resembling last year with students learning online, the closure of restaurants and bars, except for takeout, capacity limits at five people indoors, 10 outdoors, and 50 per cent in shopping malls and grocery stores, and a pause to non-emergency surgeries. With the exception of schools, which are facing a two-week delay (to return Jan. 17), these measures will be in place for 21 days, ending on Jan. 26.

Even before the announcement, the public's access to tests was limited – students were sent home with rapid tests to start the holidays. For those wanting vaccinations, there were challenges with procurement, whether with registration, or delays and access for appointments. As of Sunday night, parents were left waiting on the province on when they could send children back to school and were left deliberating between in-person or online learning. It's a lot of déjà vu for a pandemic that has persisted for two years. I feel like the provincial government is always playing catch-up.

Granted, Omicron wasn't really part of the conversation a couple of months ago. It's contagiousness can't be ignored. And yet it was. It didn't just come out of the blue. Omicron was first detected in the province on Nov. 28 and there were countries around the world confirming cases. Ontario's top COVID-19 scientists recommended a "circuit breaker" to slow down the surge of cases on

Dec. 17. Doug Ford's cabinet didn't meet until Jan. 2, which resulted in the announcement on Monday. Why wait for what has already happened in other places? It's an unsettling trend we've all seen.

Despite a small percentage of naysayers, vaccinations are our way out. Ontario citizens have done their part with close to 11.5 million people (more than five years old) receiving two doses.

Although the current scenario with the Omicron variant is concerning, it isn't without hope when examining what is happening in other countries. This variant has shown in preliminary studies to be

a milder disease compared to the other variants. One or two doses doesn't seem to stop infection. However, it has provided protection against severe illness.

In South Africa, where scientists first alerted the world about the Omicron variant, case counts are falling and the rate of hospitalizations are lower than its other three waves. It's reported for

the week ending Dec. 25 there were 89,781 confirmed infections, which is down from 127,753 the week before. There is a belief they are past its potential peak. So, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

We have always needed a strong leader, but it's clear what happens without one after the last two years, which has led to a confused public looking for answers, as far as singular direction and implementation of plans. Let's hope this provincial action isn't too late and doesn't cost us too much. We have done it before and can do it again. But why?

It's clear much of the population was done with the pandemic, but clearly the pandemic wasn't done with us.



darren lum

Editorial



Night light

by Darren Lum

Grow!

HAPPY NEW Year to everyone! I am wishing all of you the very best for a healthy and love-filled year!

A friend sent me a quote that said 2022 is like a book with 12 chapters and 365 pages and that she hoped that I would write the most beautiful story possible for myself this year. That was a lovely wish to receive! Over the years I have welcomed a new year with many different rituals. Of course I have

done the New Year's resolutions many times almost always related to losing weight and or giving up sugar or alcohol. I have never stuck to any of them. I've learned that moderation is always the way for me. I've created vision boards with pictures of things I want to have

happen that year. This was fun and gave me some big picture ideas for the year. This year my approach is a simple one. I have been asking myself over and over, how do I want to grow in 2022? What is really inspiring me and what do I want to say yes to in 2022? I think for quite a while I have been priding myself on "enduring" this pandemic and was proud of myself for doing so well at it.

For the first year of the pandemic I kept waiting for things to go back to normal. I, like many others, realize now that there is a new normal that is going to keep

evolving and I want to evolve with it. I want to grow with it. And of course the beauty is that we can all grow differently in our own ways. A friend recently told me she wanted to grow her physical activity in 2022. She wants to be strong enough to walk with joy and enthusiasm and she is taking steps to make that happen. I have recently been inspired by many creative people in my life. I've watched yoga,

meditation and teachers of all kinds grow their business online in huge ways. I've watched my sister teach herself how to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind cork purses and wallets and sell them online. I have a good friend who creates non-stop. She is always knitting, painting, sewing and baking. I am very creative in the way that I teach

and in the lessons that I plan and I love that. But I want to do more with my hands. I don't know how it will look, or what I will even do yet.

What I do know is that I am going to make time every day to even just doodle in my journal and trust that it will take me somewhere. It's like a garden. If I plant creative seeds something will grow. And I'm just doing this for myself. I'm not making stuff with the intention to sell. I'm making it with the intention to know myself better in 2022. I hope you grow in the ways that you are inspired to this year.

Tales from the great



lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

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points of view

Humanity's greatest feat

I'M NOT an anthropologist, but I am pretty good at figuring out things from the past. For instance, this morning I was able to positively identify the contents of a Tupperware container that had been hiding at the back of our fridge since mid-November. And, as if that is not enough, yesterday I figured out how we humans learned to walk upright on two feet.

This revelation occurred as I was being pulled around by my dog. That's when I noticed that, due to the extreme cold, Rosie was hopping along on three legs – and, at times, two of those were mine.

Even my half-frozen mind understood that this was probably how we humans learned to walk upright.

I suppose the first instance of upright walking occurred shortly after a particularly cold winter struck. That's when some unsuspecting cave man's wife reminded him that the dog needed to go for a walk.

Obviously, this did not sit well with him because he was the only one in the cave who ever walked the dog, even though the kids begged for the dog and promised they'd walk it, feed, and take care of it.

No matter. He soon found himself away from the warm cave and on hands and knees upon the winter landscape beside the dog, who was also on all fours.

Soon, however, he noticed the dog began walking on three legs in order to minimize its contact with the cold icy ground. No one was watching, so he decided to give it a try too.

This caused him to think that the dog wasn't as stupid as it pretended to be. Right after this, the

dog did its business and he cleaned up after it. And this confirmed that thought.

Then, both man and dog, each hobbling along on three legs, returned to the cave.

Later that night, as he sat by the fire, he thought about the experience and formulated an idea that would revolutionize humanity. He called it the shovel.

But as he was fashioning the first one, his wife declared they were out of dog food. So, she asked him to go to the pet food store to get some.

An argument broke out and he put his foot down – and then the other one and two hands. Immediately afterwards, he ambled on all fours to the cave that housed the pet food store.

Fortunately for us, that was far away. On the way there, his feet and hands began to freeze, which caused him to lift one hand off the ground and continue on two feet and a hand, which was awkward to say the least. But at least one hand was warmer.

A short while later, his other hand got painfully cold too, so he also picked it up off the ground and suddenly found himself precariously balancing and moving around on just two feet.

Then, thinking that he could do even better, he raised the other foot off the ground and began hopping on his remaining foot. He was not the sharpest tool in the shed.

As he proudly hopped by one of his neighbours, who was on all fours like a normal person, he yelled out, "You ought to try this."

To which that neighbour replied, "If God had wanted us to hop on one foot, he wouldn't have invented gopher holes."

After giving this some thought, our pioneer lowered his foot and walked away on two feet. Word soon got out about this revolutionary mode of travel, and others soon followed. They weren't sure if walking on two legs was feasible yet, but they never doubted for a moment that they were on the right track.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

View of Highland Lodge, Haliburton, Ont. Originally submitted by Grant and Mary McCracken in 2012. If you have a pic of the past you'd like to submit, please bring it into the *Echo* at 146 Highland Street.

Focus on cost of inadequate services not taxes

To the Editor,

The public and Dysart et al council need to know that I am not intimidated by a possible 7.5 per cent tax increase. I believe the township falls short of providing adequate services in many ways, especially in helping the disadvantaged. If as reported, COVID has increased costs, so be it. But I believe Dysart has a long-term cost structure that is inadequate to properly serve the community, whether in housing, transportation, roads, bylaw enforcement, recreation, environment or ...

Councillor [John] Smith is quoted in the *Echo's* Dec. 21 edition as saying a 7.5 per cent tax increase "is not viable." But who is he looking out for? Only those on low income? What about the rest of us - and has he noticed the huge buildings being built in the township - does he think it's "not viable" for them?

If he is only concerned about those on low income he should be rallying the resources of us all to help the disadvantaged. He should not hold us all hostage with the inadequate services resulting from taxes that cannot rise to meet requirements.

If, as I hope, council is concerned about the welfare of the whole township, then it should be adequately resourcing all services, especially those for low income folk and taxing all of us accordingly.

We can improve the township, and help the disadvantaged as part of the improvement, but only if we focus on delivering quality, not if we focus on tax increases.

John Cowan
Grass Lake Road,
Haliburton



Have a thought, comment or
opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
darren@haliburtonpress.com

2021 Year in Review

January

HHHS Foundation receives \$92,000

Announced in December, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation received a \$92,000 grant from the Canadian Medication Association Foundation's COVID-19 Community Hospital Fund to help frontline workers, who were in the midst of a second wave during the pandemic. The money was used to purchase equipment for acute care expansion.

Vaccine 'likely' not available in Haliburton until summer

The acting medical officer of health for HKPRDU, Dr. Ian Gemmill said Haliburton would receive the vaccines later than larger centres.

"The province of Ontario are the ones making the vaccine available to the public, and it's going to be done via a schedule of priorities. Those sets of priorities are being devised by a vaccine task force," Dr. Gemmill said.

The plan was to implement the rollout in phases. Phase one launched Dec. 14, 2020.

Haliburton County schools closed until Jan. 25

Elementary schools in southern Ontario remained closed to in-person learning to reduce the risk of transmission. They were scheduled to return to in-person learning on Jan. 11. Students resorted to learning online. This announcement coincided with the province hitting a record number of 3,519 COVID-19 cases, including 89 deaths. This matched what happened for secondary schools.

Nordic club sees record users

By January, the Haliburton Highlands Trail and Ski Club saw an increase in skiers on their 36 kilometres of trails.

With 600 season pass holders, there was 50 per cent growth of paid season members from the previous year. The association president Thom Lambert said the greater number of skiers was owed to the pandemic. The province at the time restricted certain activities out of caution to reduce the risk of transmission. Downhill ski facilities such as Sir Sam's Ski and Ride were closed. Warming huts and picnic areas were closed, as a measure to reduce gathering and to minimize the risks of transmission.



Highlands artist Rossana Dewey sits in her studio surrounded by work inspired by the pandemic. /DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton resident part of All-Around Champion

Teenager, Evan Armstrong was part of the reality television show, *All-Around Champion*.

It features 10 elite teen athletes from all over North America, who compete to be the overall best athlete after a series of challenges in a range of sports for the TVO show. Armstrong did not win. The show was available to view on www.tvokids.com.

Frost Festival cancelled

The annual tradition of winter fun, the Municipality of Dysart et al's Frost Festival was cancelled because of COVID-19.

"We had explored the idea of offering smaller activities located in different parts of the community as part of the Frost Festival, but upon closer examination decided that this would not be the best approach," Municipality of Dysart et al's events and recreation coordinator Andrea Mueller wrote in an email. She added the township promoted winter activities that members of a family could do together, "while abiding by provincial guidelines."

A crowd favourite, the Haliburton and District Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge was also cancelled prior to the township's announcement because of concerns of transmitting COVID-19. The challenge raises money for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services and for the Hospital for Sick Children.

Province and Haliburton stays at home

On Jan. 14, Ontario went into a 28-day stay-at-home order. The hope was to disrupt the second wave.

The HKPR region had seen 724 confirmed cases and 29 deaths of confirmed cases and 13 for probable cases. Up to that point, there were 43 in Haliburton County, which included five unresolved and 14 high-risk.

Artist shares lessons from pandemic project

Rossana Dewey of Haliburton reflected on her nine-month effort to document how she changed from the onset of the pandemic with a series of self-portraits. Dewey was featured close to the start of her artistic journey in an article "Daily account of the pandemic in self-portraits" in the *Echo* on May 5, 2020.

"It's funny. Before it felt hopeful. Like spring is coming, it's going to get better. Now, I'm kind of forcing myself to be hopeful. I'm trying to keep my mind on hope," Dewey said.

When the province announced stricter measures were coming in addition to the lockdown on Boxing Day it discouraged her and her husband.

"Here we go again ... It's really worked on our emotional state. It's my husband and I all the time. He's working. He's an essential worker so he goes in, but he

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works with nobody so he's by himself all day. I'm his only person. It does. It really starts to eat away at you after this time. It's a long time," she said.

Dewey was later interviewed by CBC host Wei Chen about her journey, which was first featured in the *Echo* a year before.

Staff and students return to in-person learning

In-class learning returns for more than 100,000 secondary and elementary school students on Jan. 25. This included students from all Haliburton County schools: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Cardiff Elementary School, Wilberforce Elementary School, Stuart Baker Elementary School, Archie Stouffer Elementary School and J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School. This comes after the extension to the Christmas closure, brought on by the provincial lockdown enacted on Dec. 26 to stem the tide of the second wave.

Haliburton hospital begin accepting patient transfers from GTA

Case numbers for COVID-19 hit 5,000 along with 102 deaths.

It prompted the province to prepare to have patients from the Greater Toronto Area be transported out of the city to medium and small rural communities such as Haliburton for care. GTA hospitals were nearing capacity by the second wave of the pandemic. The Haliburton hospital was on standby to receive patients.

First vaccine doses arrive to HKPR region

Long-term care residents in the area are the first to be eligible for dosages of the vaccine. There were 700 doses of Moderna that came to the health unit area.

"This is the day we've been waiting for," said Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the HKPR district health unit. "We have been working with our long-term care and retirement homes to work out the logistics of getting this vaccine into as many arms as quickly possible."

February

Hope for Haliburton County with first residents vaccinated

There were 42 long-term care residents at Extendicare who received the first doses of Haliburton County on Friday, Jan. 29. This came days after the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit announced it had received its first shipment of the Moderna vaccine. There were 700 doses delivered to Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay for storage.

Outbreak at Hyland Crest

On Jan. 31, an outbreak was declared by the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit for the long-term care residence in Minden. Two essential caregivers tested positive for the virus. It was the first outbreak for a long-term care home since March 2020.



Claire Ashley Cox, born Jan. 26, is the first baby in Haliburton born in 2021 under the care of the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft. She is loved by parents Krista and Kenny Cox, and big brother Wesley. /Submitted photo



Carnarvon resident Joleen Thomas smiles as she resumes her attempt at completing the 100 kilometres over two days for the highest level gold Coureur des Bois category during the virtual edition of the Canadian Ski Marathon in January 2021 at Moosewoods in Eagle Lake. /DARREN LUM Staff

2021 first baby

Haliburton welcomes Claire Ashley Cox.

Born on Jan. 26, Claire was delivered under the care of Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft in Peterborough. Claire is the daughter of parents Krista and Kenny Cox, and brother to Wesley.

One more week

Haliburton County, like much of the province, was going to continue with the provincial stay-at-home order until Feb. 16. Toronto, Peel and York Regions were expecting to be in lockdown until Feb. 22.

Beloved Daisy Duke dies

Andrea Hagarty's famous Vietnamese pot-bellied pig of Bonnie View Inn, Daisy Duke died at the end of January. She was a beloved icon and mascot of the inn, located on Kashagawigamog Road in Haliburton. Her likeness was featured in the logo on clothing, and as the namesake of the inn's patio bar, Daisy's. RIP Daisy Duke - 2012 to 2021

Canadian Ski Marathon comes to Highlands ... virtually

Like a lot of sporting events during the pandemic, the Canadian Ski Marathon, which is annually held in Lacoste, Quebec, went virtual in 2021.

The storied event is considered to be North America's longest and oldest Nordic ski tour and the first virtual offering in its 55-year history enabled several area skiers to participate between Feb. 6 to March 7. Skiers, who were part of a contingent of 1,200 participants, selected their own days and venues in Haliburton County to complete their respective distances.

Province delays March Break

On Feb. 11, Ontario's education minister Stephen Lecce announced spring break would be delayed until April 12 for teachers and students in Ontario.

"Postponing March Break, not cancelling it, is an important way that schools can help to limit community transmission. We recognize that congregation is a key driver of the spread of COVID-19 - something we realized over the winter break, and we will not take that risk again with your child, with our staff and with Ontario families," said Lecce.

Haliburton County posts FAQs for shoreline preservation bylaw

County announce they will create and post answers to frequently asked questions regarding shoreline preservation bylaw on their website. At that time, there was suggestion in the community the draft bylaw would prevent residents from cutting their lawns, or trim their hedges.

Before tabling the motion for the FAQ, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said, "I don't understand why we can't do our own work toward alleviating some questions and concerns on some simpler issues, such as yes, you can mow your lawn, and yes, you can prune your trees, and no, if you're planning to rebuild your cottage and it's within the 30 metres (a proposed setback distance for site alteration in the previous draft bylaw), you don't have to move it behind the proposed 30 metres."

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Mike Jaycock was honoured this year by being named the first marshal for the Haliburton Village Santa Claus Parade, as seen riding in the back of a vehicle down Highland Street on Nov. 26. Jaycock remains connected to the community despite moving away. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

Stay-at-home order lifted for Orange-Restrict category

As of Feb. 16, 12:01 a.m., small gatherings are permitted and businesses such as restaurants and bars can reopen for in-person dining to the public because the province moved to the Orange-Restrict category of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework. This announcement also included allowing small social gatherings in private homes, backyards and parks with people from different households, with up to 10 people indoors and up to 25 outdoors.

Highland Storm return for part two

The second session of minor hockey resumed on Feb. 19 because of the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit region's move to the Orange-Restrict level of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework on Feb. 16. With health safety measures in place, the Storm executive voted unanimously to proceed with the second part of the 2020-2021 season.

Agnew's General Store celebrates 100 years

Fred G. Agnew, who came to Canada from England as a 16-year-old, started the Agnew's General Store after a car accident. Agnew ended up in the Lindsay area, working in the logging industry, which led to him becoming a station agent in Gooderham where he met his eventual wife, Mary Ellen (Mae) Dixon. They married in 1913. He then became the travelling train agent on the Bancroft to Howland Junction route. Cathy Agnew, Fred's granddaughter, said the story behind how he started working with S.W. Reynolds at his store is related to Agnew's family lore.

"He was transporting a child who needed medical attention. Anyway, there was an accident and he lost his

sight in one eye. He started working for Mr. Reynolds, and that's how he ended up, eventually, the owner of Agnew's General Store," Cathy said.

March

HCDC offers financial help during pandemic

Through the Haliburton County Development Corporation's COVID loans program, they helped secure 23 loans worth \$900,000 for local businesses. HCDC also offered payment deferrals for existing clients for three months during the pandemic. Most clients didn't take this option, and after the three month period, 95 per cent of clients who did receive money resumed loan payments. Up to March, the HCDC had provided \$6.7 million in loans during the pandemic.

Elon Musk leaves mark in the Highlands

Area residents take the opportunity for high-speed internet with Starlink, which is intended to help with connectivity for low to medium population density communities around the world. Started by Elon Musk's private spaceflight company, SpaceX in 2015, a few years later Starlink had the launch of 60 first low-Earth orbit, or LEOs, partway through 2019. Residents join thousands of others, as beta testers for the satellite internet service. The plan is to have a megaconstellation of small satellites that will orbit some 550 kilometres from Earth. With an \$800 cost for hardware and the \$129 monthly fee, beta testers in Highlands were happy with the connectivity, which was not only faster than previous services, but was also stable.

Celebrity Mike Jaycock moves

Mike Jaycock, the long-time morning voice for Canoe FM, prolific emcee, and contributor to public causes, moved to Ingersoll with wife Jane, who was also a dedicated volunteer in the community. They moved to be closer to their children, grandchildren and to Jaycock's brother. The gregarious personality continues to volunteer for the station, conducting interviews on-air remotely and had hosted of the variety show, the Highlands Shindig (for Fuel for Warmth) late this year.

First COVID-19 death in Haliburton County

On March 4, the first death related to COVID-19 was recorded since the pandemic was declared in March 2020, according to an epidemiological report update from the health unit. Confirmed deaths are individuals who died and had a positive laboratory test for COVID-19, according to the health unit. Up to this point, the health unit reported there were 67 deaths related to COVID-19 – 54 confirmed and 19 probable.

"The person had been hospitalized outside of the region for a non-COVID related issue and acquired COVID while in hospital," said Chandra Tremblay, spokesperson for HKPRD health unit, on March 5.

Haliburton County opens up more

As COVID-19 case numbers decline, the region moves to Yellow-Restrict category of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework. As of Monday, March 8, COVID-19 restrictions were eased in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes due to declining new coronavirus cases in recent weeks. The Yellow-Restrict category meant the lifting of the 50-person capacity for limit for local eateries, allows them to stay open until midnight for in-person dining, and allows up to six people up from four to dine at the same table.

Searching for Heaven

Harold Heaven's 87-year-old mysterious disappearance was at the heart of the true-crime documentary series *For Heaven's Sake*. The eight-episode documentary was directed by Tim Johnson and was available on CBC Gem or Paramount+ as of March 4. With Minden and the surrounding area as a backdrop, the documentary followed the search conducted by amateur sleuths and comedians, Heaven's great-great-nephew Mike Mildon and his best friend Jackson Rowe. The two best friends interviewed locals and family for potential clues related to the disappearance of Heaven, who disappeared from his remote cabin located in the woods of what is now Minden Hills in the winter of 1934.

Sterling Nesbitt takes dream to US

Former Red Hawks athletic standout, Sterling Nesbitt commits to play hockey for the Warriors of Indiana Tech. Nesbitt earned a four-year academic scholarship and was recruited to play defence for the first-year team in the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 1.

She was named for great-grandfather Sinclair 'Sinc' George Nesbitt, which the Minden arena and home of the Haliburton County Huskies call home. After her Grade 9 year at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, where she set a record in long jump in midget girls, she spent three years at the Ontario Hockey Academy based in Cornwall before graduating in spring of 2021.

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COVID-19 cases at HHSS

HHSS students quarantine after there are confirmed COVID-19 cases in three classes: Grade 11 chemistry, Grade 12 English and Grade 12 math. Four classes closed.

A March 14 e-mail to families from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's principal Chris Boulay included a letter from the HKPR noting that students in the chemistry class must quarantine from March 14 until midnight on March 22, while students in the English class and math class must quarantine from March 14 until midnight on March 25.

Quarantine is a legal requirement to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as read from the letter.

Students were not allowed to leave their residence except for COVID-19 test or for necessary medical attention.

Haliburton County receives millions from province

The provincial funding of \$3.25 million will expand the community's paramedicine for long-term care pilot program.

"This new funding will help keep our loved ones at home longer and avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital," MPP Laurie Scott said. "Thanks to our Haliburton County Paramedic Service, this program will help even more seniors and has the potential to delay the need for long-term care."

Tim Waite, chief of the Haliburton County Paramedic Service said the funding will be received in stages over the next three years. This funding announcement was part of a second phase of funding province-wide to bolster community paramedicine programs all across Ontario.

Outbreak at Hyland Crest

An outbreak was declared at the Minden long-term care residence after one staff member tested positive for coronavirus early March.

"According to guidance from the Ministry of Health for Long-Term Care homes, if one staff member or resident has a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19, this must be considered an 'outbreak'. Accordingly, the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Unit (HKPRDU) has officially declared Hyland Crest to be in a COVID-19 outbreak," as stated from COVID-19 outbreak declared at Hyland Crest story in March 16 *Echo* issue.

The positive test was revealed in a routine surveillance testing. A second test was performed to confirm the result, as required during the "Yellow-Protect" zone. Outbreak protocols were being executed: immediate testing of all residents and potentially exposed individuals, isolating all residents to their rooms, and postponing admissions, readmissions, discharges and/or transfers.

Bringing attention to unsung hometown heroes

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School students work to not just raise the profile of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduates, who were high level athletes and siblings Lesley Tashlin and Taly Williams, but have their likeness added to the Wall of Fame at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Tashlin is an Olympian and Williams was the area's first homegrown professional football player.



Leopoldina Dobzensky, who was a steward of the land and ardent local historian of the Highlands, died on March 18. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

Hikers found alive

Lost hikers were found in good health after losing their way in the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands. A pair of 62-year-old hikers were rescued on March 5 by the an Emergency Response Team with OPP snowmobiles.

"Whether your activity is during the summer or winter, on land or water, anywhere in Ontario, proper planning and emergency preparedness is crucial for your safety when planning outdoor activities," said Iryna Nebogatova, OPP spokesperson.

Red Hawks rink receives belated recognition

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School senior boys' curling team of Liam Little, Jacob Dobson, Corin Gervais and Owen Nicholls (coached by Erin Nicholls, and Darrell Dobson) were officially presented their provincial banner and trophy on Thursday, March 11 for winning the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship (formerly the Gore Mutual Ontario School Championships). This was almost a year after they won. The delay was caused by the pandemic. The presentation was performed outside the school, observing COVID-19 protocols.

The oldest in Haliburton County eligible for vaccinations

Vaccinations for residents 80 and older were available. Vaccinations were administered at the Family Medical Centre on Monday, March 22 and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on April 5.

Dobzensky passes

On March 18, Haliburton lost a steward of the land and well-known local historian when Leopoldina Dobzensky died. Her family moved here in 1974. The Highlands reminded her of birth country, Czech Republic.

Dobzensky was born in 1926 to the Lobkowicz family, one of Europe's oldest, most illustrious families in the former Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic). They survived the Second World War, endured Nazi occupation and when the war ended faced struggles under the rule of the Soviet Union.

With her husband Jenda, two children and with child for five months, she fled the country hidden in a truck. At a border crossing, prayers were answered.

"The border guards were likely reluctant to venture outside and stayed in the office, however, at one point we heard someone shouting, 'stop!'," as read from Dobzensky's memoir. "To which our driver replied, 'C'mon, Tony, you know that all I carry is gravel, and this is my last trip.' Petrified, we held our breath. Luckily the children were still asleep and the truck drove on. I cannot remember ever having prayed so hard."

The family ended up on foot and walked to Austria.

"Suddenly the sky cleared and the sun came out," Dobzensky said. "On a summer evening its last rays fell on a group of grazing deer. It was such a peaceful sight that my shallow breathing stopped, and I was no longer afraid."


The family came to Canada in 1951 and settled in the Toronto area.

In 1974, the family came to Haliburton County.

Dobzensky appreciated history. She wrote two books about the history of the area: *Fragments of a Dream* and *They worked and prayed together: Italians in Haliburton County*.

She and daughter Margaret gifted 500 acres of their own land to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, which has provided the public access to the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, located a few kilometres from Haliburton.

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HCSA reflects on busy year

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) saw greater number of riders.

John Enright, HCSA vice president said membership was "up significantly" over the past 10 years and that memberships were up 25 per cent compared to last year with the sale of 2,616 paid memberships.

Enright said this was caused because of people looking to snowmobiling as an activity that is close to home since people weren't travelling to warmer climates.

April

Rotaract celebrates one year anniversary

The social service club for young adults 18 and older turned one and reflected on their achievements, which included the adoption and care for two kilometres of road on County Road 21, the Trick or Treat initiative where the club delivered candy on Halloween, used a grant to provide 36 large boxes filled with personalized basic needs to local families, partnered with SIRCH to provide much-needed technology to locals, lent help to the Rotary Club of Haliburton with their monthly Good Food Box initiative, Rotaract member Kelsey Redman sewed 60 masks in the first few weeks of lockdown to give out for free, and 60 more masks were created by locals with the recycled materials from the drop-off set up by the club.

Province announces four-week shutdown

On April 3, the province pulled the "emergency brake," which resulted in a four-week shutdown of the province. This came a day after the province hit the highest number of people with COVID-19 related critical illness admitted to intensive care units up that point during the pandemic. The shutdown meant the colour-coded zones of COVID-19 Response Framework were paused. The restrictions included prohibition of indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity of outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a five-person maximum, except for gath-



Frontline workers, which included emergency personnel, postal workers, retail staff from stores such as Haliburton Foodland and Todd's Independent Grocer, line up on Thursday, Mar. 18 outside the HHHS vaccination hub located at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. /DARREN LUM Staff

erings with members of the same household; limits on in-person shopping; no personal care services; no indoor and outdoor dining, prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness; the closure of day camps; limiting capacity at weddings, funerals and religious services, and short term rentals (cabins and cottages) are only provided to individuals in need of housing.

back and said, you know what, let's move north and live our dream ... Life's too short."

The store was dutifully run and managed by four generations of the Robinson family, who served the community as the main hub for supplies.

Businesses in Haliburton at breaking point

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce said the extension of Ontario's state of emergency and province-wide stay-at-home order to May 20 left local businesses on the brink.

President of the Chamber of Commerce Andrea Strano said businesses were already at the breaking point.

"Business owners are already financially strained to the max, and anxieties and tensions are at the breaking point," Strano said. "I don't think there's a sector that isn't feeling the effects of this lockdown in some way, shape or form."

She added tourism and restaurant industries would be the hardest hit by the extension. Spring is the busiest time of year for businesses she said. The chamber included 250 members.

TLDSB receives \$7.5 million

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board received close to \$7.5 million in COVID-19 relief funding from the provincial and federal governments. The money was to be used to upgrade infrastructure at local schools to protect against COVID-19.

Schools across province remain closed

Students across Ontario did not return to schools after the April Break as planned.

On Monday, April 12, Ontario Premier Doug Ford said the spread of "deadly" COVID-19 variants from South Africa, the UK and Brazil had led to the latest decision. No time frame was offered for a return to in-person learning. At the time, close to 27 per cent of 4,828 publicly-funded schools had at least one confirmed case of the illness.

New era for Robinson's

The 100-year-old family-owned and operated Robinson's General Store in Dorset was bought by Mike and Katie Hinbest and a new chapter began. The general store is a seasonal destination for some and a place to buy weekly staples. The Hinbests moved from Huntsville via Orangeville.

They came with a "live your dream" philosophy.

"Don't live one day unhappy," Mike said. "So we sat

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Echo's excellence reverberates

The *Haliburton County Echo* newspaper won five first-place awards, two second-place awards and three third-place awards at the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's 2020 Better Newspaper Competition. The awards included a first for reporter Sue Tiffin, who won the Environment Writing category; a first for past editor Jenn Watt in the Education Writing category; a first in the Photographer of the Year category to Darren Lum, who also claimed the Best Sports Photo of the year. Sister paper the *Minden Times*' Jim Poling Sr. won the Columnist of the Year award. There were 13 awards claimed by the *Times* and the *Echo*.

Echo columnist Steve Galea earned second place in the Humour Columnist of the Year Award category. Although it was technically for the *Woolwich Observer*, one of his three submitted columns for the award was from the *Echo*. Content can come from more than one newspaper in this category, but one paper receives the recognition. The *Echo* and the *Observer* take turns, switching every other year, submitting Galea's columns for their respective papers for this category.

Covert hits the road for retirement

After 46 years, the Municipality of Highlands East roads superintendent Earl Covert called it a career.

Covert, who has lived in Highland Grove all his life, started with the township after high school. The year before he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Library CEO leaves

The Haliburton County Public Library's CEO Bessie Sullivan resigned after 12 years.

"I believe that an organization can only thrive with a leader for so long and then it is time for a change," she said. Sullivan became CEO of Orillia Public Library.

Closures for mass vaccination clinics

There were fewer Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge region mass vaccination clinics due to challenges of vaccine supply, and prioritization of mobile teams in reaching congregate care settings that the health unit has not yet been able to reach – and sometimes clinics will be prioritized over mobile teams while the health unit deals with a low supply of vaccine. As of April 19, there were 51,000 HKPR residents who have received at least one shot of vaccine. This number included residents who received a dose outside the health unit region.

May

Recreation gets a boost from federal, provincial funding

Four projects in Haliburton County benefited from a \$3 million joint federal, provincial and project recipient funding. This includes upgrades to the Haliburton County Rail Trail corridor, renovations to the Kinark Outdoor Centre in Minden; accessibility upgrades at the Minden Library, Minden Hills Cultural Centre, Lochlin Community Centre, Irondale Community Centre and the Minden Curling Club, and rehabilitation of the Rotary Beach Park in Haliburton supported through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.



Haliburton County Huskies forward Patrick Saini shields the puck from Toronto Jr Canadiens forward Jacob Bigras in a game last month at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies have been a hit with local residents, who have helped the team draw the envy of the Ontario Junior Hockey League with its strong attendance where hundreds come every home game. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

Connectivity promised to improve

Upwards of 40 communication towers were planned to be constructed in Haliburton County by 2025, as part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project. The location of the towers was yet to be determined. The aim is to achieve 99 per cent of the area having cellular calling service; 95 per cent of the area having sufficient coverage to run video and applications and 85 per cent having the capability to stream high-definition video. The entire project included 300 new towers throughout Eastern Ontario and the upgrading of 300 existing towers, which would be completed in four years and three months. Back in March, Rogers Communications was named as the successful bidder. The total cost of the project, which is a public-private partnership, was valued at \$300 million.

Haliburton County paramedics deliver vaccines

Homebound residents and their caregivers received COVID-19 vaccinations from Haliburton County paramedics. Eleven vaccinations were administered on April 27. Two days later, the paramedics would administer more vaccines.

"We have the process in place now, we know what we need to do," Tim Waite, paramedic chief said.

The County Warden Liz Danielsen said, "It's good news, and I know that will alleviate concerns of a number of seniors and their family members."

The Huskies return ... with a county audience

The Ontario Junior Hockey League welcomed Haliburton County into the fold with the addition of the Haliburton County Huskies for the 2021/22 season. The team

was formerly the Fury and was relocated from Whitby. Owned by Haliburtonian and Haliburton Huskies alumnus, Paul Wilson, the team moved into the brand new \$12 million facility, the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

Vaccination clinic at A.J. LaRue closes

In the May 18 *Echo* the HKPRDHU press release titled "Influx of Vaccine Opens more Opportunities for Local Vaccination Appointments," announced the mass vaccination clinic at Haliburton's A.J. LaRue community centre will close later in May.

It added the number of people booking appointments was low and with the addition of primary care providers and local pharmacies offering vaccinations to residents, the health unit would continue with just the one mass immunization clinic in Minden.



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Amanda Lytle's writing included in *She Moves Mountains*

Raised in Haliburton County, Amanda Lytle fulfilled her dream of becoming a published author after she drew the attention of Sarah Swain, founder of Great Canadian Women Publishing House. Swain heard Lytle on her podcast *The Safe Haven* and asked her to contribute by writing a chapter for the book *She Moves Mountains*, which was being published by Swain.

Initially the book title was called *Women in Business*. Lytle was apprehensive about accepting Swain's offer. "Then it was decided later that the title would be changed to *She Moves Mountains* and I was so inspired. How can you not be with a title as powerful as that," she said.

Lytle is a teacher and podcaster who lives in British Columbia.

Silver Beach gets connected

The North Frontenac Telephone Company announced a \$1 million expansion effort to bring high-speed connectivity to 500 residents. The work was to be completed in 12 months.

JDHES students' efforts bolstered

The J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Grade 7/8 students who were pushing for Lesley Tashlin and Taly Williams to be included on the wall of fame on the side of the A.J. LaRue Arena got a boost with Athletics Canada when they posted the story, "Students pushing to honour Lesley Tashlin in Haliburton" on May 5.

The students were also asking the public on social media to show their support by using the hashtags #HerTrackHisField and #OurMurality. Tashlin is an Olympian who competed at the Atlanta Summer Games and Williams was the first professional football player from the Highlands.

Dysart et al council voted unanimously to recognize and have Olympian Lesley Tashlin and her brother, retired CFLer Taly Williams added to the town's mural wall at a virtual meeting on June 22. Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts said, "I guess you could say we're righting a wrong that was overlooked."

The mural will be completed this winter and be installed later in 2022.



Second World War veteran Sir Harold Rowen salutes the close to 100 riders, who came out to show their respect, which included a ceremony presentation this past summer. /Submitted by Fred Pyziak

June

Hike Haliburton Festival cancelled

During a May 27 meeting, Haliburton County councillors made the decision to cancel Hike Haliburton Festival based on the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual festival is a signature event for the Highlands and is a celebration of the outdoors and includes dozens of guided hikes at locations throughout the county.

Red Hawks recognized virtually

For the first time in the 42 year history of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Annual Athletic Awards Ceremony it was held virtually. When the provincial government decided to not reopen schools on

May 19 the HHSS physical and health education department set in motion the necessary actions to hold a virtual awards ceremony. The ceremony was held from June 4 to June 20.

Step one to 'Roadmap to Reopen' plan

By Friday June 11, non-essential retailers across Haliburton County were planning on opening their doors at 15 per cent capacity and restaurants will be permitted to open their patios. Premier Doug Ford made the announcement on Monday, June 7, indicating it was safe for the province to look ahead and lift some of the restrictions that have prevented people from gathering and certain businesses from operating since April.

Students continue to learn from home

School wasn't out for summer by June, but students wouldn't be returning for in-person learning until September at the earliest.

From a June 2 press release from the provincial government:

"To best protect Ontario families from the fast growing B.1.617.2 variant, and to allow for higher rates of vaccination of students, staff, and families, the Ontario government has made the difficult decisions to continue with remote learning for all elementary and secondary students across the province for the remainder of this school year."

First inductees for Sports Hall of Fame announced

After three years the wait is over. The first inductees for the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame were announced. The athletes listed in alphabetical order: Mike Bradley, Glen Dart, Cody Hodgson, Don Beverly "Joe" Iles (deceased), Marla MacNaull, Bernie Nicholls, Ron Stackhouse, Lesley Tashlin, Anna Tomlinson, and Taly Williams. The builders include Linda J. Bran-

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don, Albert John (Ab) LaRue, and Lenny Salvatori. In the team category are the 1934 Haliburton Huskies, the 1956 to 1958 Minden Monarchs, and the 1971 Haliburton Huskies. The Hall of Fame is a member of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative Inc. (The Co-op). The induction ceremony is expected this spring 2022.

War hero honoured

Second World War veteran Sir Harold Rowden, 97, was honoured with a 100 motorcycle parade, including 52 members of the Haliburton Highlands Riders Club that gathered in Haliburton on Sunday, June 6 outside the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton. This date was the 77th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, which Rowden was part of along with 14,000 other Canadians that stormed Juno beach after crossing the frigid waters of the English Channel. He was a member of the 3rd Division of the 13th Field Regiment. The motorcycle parade was appropriate since the veteran was dispatch rider in the war, delivering coded messages. Rowden had relocated to the area to live in the recently completed Gardens of Haliburton retirement home.

Out of cabinet

MPP Laurie Scott was shuffled out of the Ford government's cabinet.

She was one of five prominent ministers removed. This shuffle was a year before the June provincial election. "I work hard, whether I'm a minister or an MPP," Scott said in a response to the shuffle adding, "Politics is like that." She was the infrastructure minister.

End of an era

The Canadian Blood Services (CBS) announced July 5 would be the last blood donation clinic in Haliburton. The main reason was cost for CBS to operate clinics in the Highlands. There were 79 individuals who had been already registered to give blood as of June 22.

"Mother Goose" retires after 22 years

Known as 'Mother Goose', Bev Jackson always stressed the importance of that connection between children and parents while supporting families throughout Haliburton County and City of Kawartha Lakes as an early literacy educator, parent education facilitator and community outreach coordinator.

Jackson had hopes of gardening and swimming with her added time in retirement.

"I loved it, I really did," she said. "I'm going to miss it. I'm definitely going to be missing the families. I already miss the families and children that were there when COVID hit, having to close our doors. Hopefully when things open up again, families will be able to connect so much easier. It's so beneficial to parents."

It's done. They did it.

It's mission accomplished for the J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Grade 7/8 French Immersion class taught by Marina Thomazo, who learned that Olympian Lesley Tashlin and the first professional football player from the area, Taly Williams would be added to the mural wall on the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. Dysart et al council voted unanimously to officially recognize the pair and have them added to the town's mural wall with athletes Cody Hodgson, Mike Bradley, Matt Duchene, Bernie Nicholls and Ron Stackhouse.



When Derek Little, or 'Mr. D', wasn't teaching students in class or various sites throughout Haliburton County with his four-credit outdoor education program, he was on the sidelines leading football players with friend and co-coach Tim Davies. Little loved football and appreciated its qualities to instill teamwork and resilience. He died on June 11 after a two-and-a-half year struggle with brain cancer. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

"I guess you could say we're righting a wrong that was overlooked," Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts said at the June 22 council meeting.

He was a father, brother, a son, a friend, a coach and a teacher. But most of all he was an example for the community.

Rest in Peace, Derek

Haliburton County shoreline bylaw moves forward

The county's new shoreline preservation bylaw will be ready for final approval by October county councillors learned at a June 23 meeting. The news was part of an introductory presentation by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. and engineering and planning firm J.J. Richards and Associates, who were hired by the county for the creation of the bylaw.

Community mourns loss of great teacher, citizen, "Mr. D"

Long-time Haliburton Highlands Secondary School teacher Derek Little died after a two-and-a-half-year struggle with brain cancer. He is gone, but won't be forgotten by all those that were inspired and knew him as 'Mr. D'. The crowning achievement to his teaching at HHSS was the four-credit outdoor education program, which gave an opportunity for real life skills and enable opportunities to gain certificates and accreditation they could use post-graduation.

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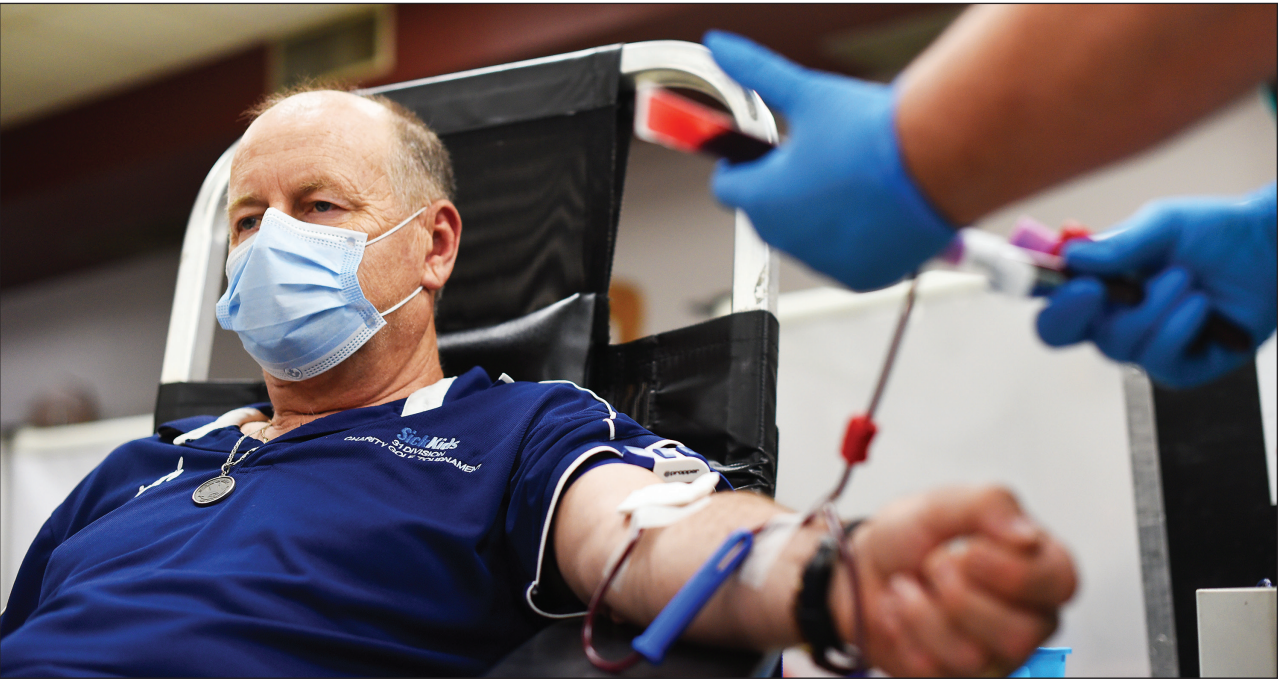
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Halls Lake resident Ron Henselwood has blood drawn at the Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton during the last blood donation clinic held in Haliburton on Monday, July 5. The clinic, which will no longer be held in Haliburton due to factors such as collection and cost of labour and transportation, exceeded its target of 58 units of blood with 59. Each unit is 450 millilitres of blood. There were 79 pre-registered for the clinic. The donation clinic has been held in Haliburton for more than three decades. /DARREN LUM Staff

July

Province moves into Step 3

By July 16, much of Ontario reopened. This meant that indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities, cinemas, museums and casinos reopen, and restrictions removed for all indoor dining, retail and personal care businesses.

Rotary Club welcomes Heather Phillips

The newest leader to the Rotary Club of Haliburton is just the third woman to assume the role for the ser-

vice club for the 2021/22 year. She took on the role on July 1. Born and raised in Haliburton, Phillips has always wanted to give back to her community. She joined the club in 2018.

100 years for Robinson's General Store celebrated

A small celebration was held outside the Dorset store on July 10 by the new owners Mike and Katie Hinbest, who presented a picture, which was made by a local artist, to past owner Brad Robinson.

Disc Golf comes to Abbey Gardens

On Canada Day, the 18-hole course located at Abbey Gardens opened. The course was created and designed by course designer and business development officer for

Canada Innova Disc Golf, Darrell Bankes. The pay-as-you-play course offers short and long layouts at the repurposed quarry property, which features open spaces and enclosed wooded areas.

Famous cottager dies, leaving memories

Former NHLer Bryan "Bugsy" Watson loved Haliburton and those who new him loved him.

Watson died from pneumonia in St. Michaels, Maryland on July 8. He was 78 years of age.

Dysart et al Councillor Walt McKechnie, who was a good friend and past teammate in the NHL, remembered Watson as a tough individual with a heart of gold.

"There are so many words I can use to describe him, but if you're talking about how he acted on the ice and the way he played I can sum it up in one word: fearless. He was absolutely fearless. No matter how big you were. How tough you were. If you wanted to go [fight], Bugsy would oblige you," he said.

The two friends were neighbours for a time on Eagle Lake before Bugsy sold his seasonal residence in the 1980s with the stipulation he could use it on visits. Watson returned to Haliburton regularly and would stay at his old cottage.

August

Renters rejoice over new project approval

Dysart et al council approved the 21-unit apartment complex slated for construction on a one-acre lot at the corner of Maple Avenue and Victoria Street. The development featured three separate multi-unit buildings and will be made up, largely, of subsidized housing. Richard Carson of Hot Pond Enterprises Corp. was behind the proposal and said he had been in discussions with the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation, which the township is a partner in, to designate 14 of the 21 units as affordable housing. The total cost of the development is \$6 million and has a 2023 move-in. The project was to be split into two phases. The completion of the project is to be by the end of 2024.

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SIU clears two OPP officers

Two Haliburton Highlands OPP officers who discharged firearms resulting in the fatal shooting of a man on July 15, 2020 were cleared after an investigation by the Ontario Special Investigations Unit. The man was later identified as 73-year-old Leslie John Hegedus. Before Hegedus was involved with the police shooting, he had assaulted an employee of Minden Valu-Mart after a request to wear a mask upon entering and then used his vehicle to ram other vehicles in the store's parking lot, before speeding away. Police tracked Hegedus to his residence in Haliburton by using his licence plate where there was an interaction that resulted in the officers discharging their firearms. The SIU report showed Hegedus had weapons on the property, and began firing at police from a concealed location in the bush, with officers returning fire.

The Ontario Special Investigations Unit is a civilian oversight body that investigates cases of serious injury, death or allegations of assault involving police officers.

Canoe FM Radiothon breaks record

The 13th annual Canoe FM Radiothon raised a record \$54,000 with raffles, auction and music over two days, from July 2 to 4. The fundraiser, which started in 2009, had raised \$42,000 the previous year. The funds help the not-for-profit volunteer-driven radio station with operation costs such as running the station.

Area optometrists prepare for job action

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) voted to stop all non-emergency procedures as of Sept. 1 unless the provincial government takes measures to provide adequate funding.

"It's a cumulative action to help all optometrists across Ontario. It's really not an individual choice, we have to think as a collective group, and we have to work as a unified collective group to go towards finding a solution that not just helps certain optometrists in certain places, but then can work for the overall betterment of the optometry profession," said Kinderpal Singh. Singh, who was trained overseas, was waiting for his licence to practice as an optometrist in Canada. He relocated to Haliburton with his wife Dr. Amardeep Bhogal.

Time to vote

The federal election is called for Sept. 20 after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dissolved government.

Incumbent Jamie Schmale, Conservative representative for the Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock riding was up to secure a third successive term. His closest rival was Liberal candidate Judi Forbes, who had run in a previous federal election. The election campaign would only be 36 days, which was the shortest since 1900. *Schmale went on to win the riding and secured his third term.*

Highland Yard runs down a record

The annual Highland Yard virtual edition raised \$32,500 for housing projects facilitated by Places for People. There was 73 registered participants. Places for People has been beneficiary of this event since 2012. Since 2010, Places for People has housed 19 families, including 30 adults and 54 children.



The OPP conducted traffic stops on Indian Point Road, as the Ontario Special Investigation Unit investigated the fatal shooting of 73-year-old Leslie John Hegedus of Haliburton on July 16, 2020. Hegedus was involved in an altercation at a grocery store in Minden the day before, which led to him fleeing the scene for his Haliburton residence on Indian Point Road where he exchanged gunfire with Haliburton Highlands OPP officers on July 15, 2020 that ultimately resulted in his death. Two officers who discharged firearms resulting in the death of Hegedus were cleared this year. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

Ceremony postponed until 2022

The Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame was preparing to hold its inaugural induction ceremony, but with rising COVID-19 cases the decision was made to postpone until spring.

Hall of Fame chairperson and induction ceremony sub-committee member Scott LaRue said the move was made out of an abundance of caution. It had been originally scheduled for Oct. 23.

Olympian reflects on dream fulfilled

At 25, Rachel Honderich was able to fulfill a life-long dream when she competed in doubles badminton at the Tokyo Summer Games.

"It was indescribable. My dream has been to go to the Olympics since I was 12. To be there just felt so surreal. It was 100 per cent a dream come true. I couldn't believe it the whole time I was there," said Honderich. With partner Kristen Tsai, Honderich were not able to advance to the quarter finals at the Tokyo Games. The highlight, she said, was pushing the world number two team from Japan to a third game, losing 18-21.

As far as the future, it's all ahead. "After experiencing one, you just want more. I look forward to what the future has in store," Honderich said.

Goodbye Jack Bush

Jack Bush endured metastatic lung cancer for 21 months before he died on Aug. 17 at the Haliburton hospital. He was 85. Anyone who read the *Echo* from 2002 to 2009 will have benefited from Jack's skills as a no-nonsense copy editor - we even had "Jackisms". The origin story of his addition to the team every Tuesday came from a phone call he had with past editor Martha Perkins. He expressed concern about the editing errors in the paper. Perkins invited him to bring his red pen and help correct the errors. The rest the say is history.

Bush was the son of celebrated Canadian painter

Jack Bush. His brother wrote and sang the theme song to the iconic Canadian TV show, *The Littlest Hobo*. His past included a career in advertising that started as copywriter, which led to becoming a prominent creative director for decades in Canada. In retirement, he volunteered in the community reading to students at Stuart Baker Elementary School and he was a passionate photographer, capturing the beauty of the Highlands.

September

Proof of vaccination required

Vaccine passport implemented by the provincial government as of Sept. 1.

This was part of a measure to reduce the chance of transmission of COVID-19.

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A Holy Cross Hurricanes defender looks to steal the ball from Red Hawks player and co-captain Brook Stover during Kawartha Field Hockey League action on Oct. 5 at the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field in Haliburton. The Hawks controlled the opening half, but surrendered a second half goal and lost the game 1-nil. This was the first high school competition held in close to two years because of COVID-19 restrictions. /DARREN LUM Staff

Red Hawks runners join the party

A day after the Hawks field hockey team opened their season, the cross-country running team took to the road for the Bay of Quinte Invitational at Dunnett Orchards in Brighton. Senior runner Nick Phippen led the way with ninth place finish. The team also sent Erika Hoare, Corin Gervais and Ivan Zagorsky.

"As a coach, I felt a little emotional and overcome with joy watching athletes challenging themselves again and motivated to work towards their goals," coach Karen Gervais said.

No more dogsledding at the Forest

Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve announced on Oct. 21 they would stop offering dogsled tours. They would look for homes for some of their dogsled dogs. The Forest planned to make low-impact, outdoor experiences such as hiking and fishing a priority.

In an email response, Tegan Legge of the Forest, wrote: Dogsledding was a favourite among many visitors to the Haliburton Highlands and more specifically to Haliburton Forest for over two decades. First brought to Haliburton Forest in the late-90s tours have brought much joy and excitement to many families and friends over the years. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to this iconic experience at Haliburton Forest but with excitement to see what is in store for us next.

November

COSSA cross-country yields OFSAA berth

Red Hawks cross-country runner Erika Hoare is going to OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletics Association) championship. Although she finished as the sixth individual runner and alternate for OFSAA, the runner ahead of her declined the berth, leaving her the opportunity to go to the all-provincials. Other Hawks runners were Haiden Bird, Evelyn Vanderstarre, Corin Gervais, Darian Maddock, Nick Phippen and Ivan Zagorsky. Note: Erika Hoare finished 67th in a field of 185 novice girl runners at OFSAA, which was held on Nov. 6 at Lakefield College in Lakefield.

Santa expected to come

The Santa Claus Parade was ready to return this year. Organized by the Haliburton and District Lions Club with support by the BIA, the parade is a staple of the festive season, but was on hiatus due to the pandemic. The last time the parade was held was in 2019.

New chapter for Sir Sam's

After 56 years, the Bishop family sold Sir Sam's Ski and Ride to the Wilkinson family.

"Seven years go, we began a seven-year exit strategy," Chris Bishop said. "Our family members are all 60 and over and it was time to transition to new owners. There was a four-part plan and in the seventh year, we were able to do that."

The Wilkinson family owned a cottage on Boskung Lake for 15 years. They wanted to invest in a business in Haliburton.

Corduroy returns for 67th edition

Gooderham's biggest event, the Corduroy Enduro returned after a two-year absence to give enduro riders a chance to test themselves against Canada's toughest off-road motorcycle race due to easing COVID-19 restrictions. It was held from Sept. 23 to 26.

Vaccines to come by bus

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit announces the GO-VAXX bus will be coming in September to give residents a vaccine shot. As the result of a partnership between the province and Metrolinx, there were two buses that were temporarily retrofitted to serve as mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinics. They hit the road in August.

Champion Kawartha Cubs has Highlands connection

The Kawartha Cubs under-13 baseball team fulfilled a five-year journey to be the best in province beating the Tillsonburg Otters for the Ontario Baseball Association championship title. This team featured three players from the Highlands: Bracken Johnston, Parker Simms and Chase Winder. They were coached by head coach Darryl Winder and assistant Jamie Johnston, both from the Highlands. Winder is Chase's father and Johnston is Bracken's father. This was the final year the five would all be on the same team, so the championship win was rewarding for the five.

Athletics and extracurricular activities returns to HHSS

After two years of living with pandemic restrictions, life at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School will include sports teams, social and service clubs and inter-school sports with an emphasis on development. Their return was welcomed by faculty and students, who needed an opportunity to develop and socialize. The principal Chris Boulay said these offerings were important for the well-being of the school and a relationship to academic success.

October

Huskies start new chapter

The Haliburton County Huskies may have lost their home opener 4-0 to the visiting Lindsay Muskies in Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Saturday, Oct. 2, but fans have hope because junior hockey has returned to the Highlands.

Hawks part of comeback

As communities look to resume normal life, the Red Hawks field hockey team hosted a home opener on Oct. 5 against the Holy Cross Hurricanes. It was the first time a game was held at the Gary G. Brohman Athletic Field in close to two years. Despite spectators being restricted to watching the game from the asphalt path, no one was complaining because athletics was back. The Hawks lost 1-nil, but the mood was hopeful because of a season with possibility lay ahead.

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A voice goes quiet

Barry Willhelm was a man passionate about music and a dedicated volunteer with Canoe FM.

He was the on-air host of the weekly radio show, Voices in Harmony and also hosted Medical Matters with Dr. Norm Bottum. Willhelm served on the station's board for close to a decade.

On Oct. 31, he died peacefully at the Haliburton hospital. He was 83.

Club of the year

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association was named the Ontario snowmobile club of the year by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs on Nov. 9. The federation chose HCSA for its "exceptional innovative activities in participation development, rider experience, volunteerism and partnership development."

Vaccines approved for youth five to 11

Health Canada approved the Pfizer BioTech's COVID-19 vaccine for kids aged five to 11. There are 11,115 children across the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge region, who will soon be able to receive the vaccine. This includes 844 in Haliburton County. Appointments could be made starting Nov. 23 and the first date for pediatric vaccination appointments was Nov. 29.

Record hit by overnight fundraiser

The annual Sleeping in Cars fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 19 set a new record with more than \$12,500 to help reduce homelessness. Organized by Places for People, the event asked participants to sleep in their cars overnight and included two movies, a fire to gather around, and refreshments and food.

The previous high for the event was close to \$6,000 in 2019.

Festival plans return

Highlands Summer Festival announced it is planning to return for the summer of 2022.

The festival plans to hold shows from July 4 to Aug. 11 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The festival has not had any offerings of theatre for two years.

December

Outbreak declared at Haliburton school

Two cases of COVID-19 were confirmed at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

The confirmation of the cases was from the daily COVID-19 advisory table released by the Trillium Lakeshore District School Board.

"Provincial guidance requires a school outbreak be declared when two or more linked confirmed cases occur within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health with the HKPR District Health Unit, in an email to the Echo.



There were more than 450,000 Hydro One customers without power after high winds left behind downed trees and lines in Ontario early in December. Close to 50,000 customers were from Haliburton County. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

Cadets recognized

The 1129 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps received the Cadet League Trophy in memory of Colonel William A. Maddox for being named the Top Small Army Cadet Corps in Ontario, including \$500 cash prize. The cadets also won the Strathcona Award for the first time in their history for being the Top Small Army Cadet Corps in southeastern Ontario. Both awards were for 2020, but the presentation was delayed because of the pandemic.

Herlihey Park moves forward

Municipality of Highlands East CAO/treasurer Shannon Hunter announced to council that the studies and consultations for Herlihey Park were done.

"We should be able to conclude the consultations and proceed with the trails and parking lots in 2022," Hunter said. She is waiting for final reports but said, "everything looks promising."

The plan is for the park, which is situated on the seven-acre property between Loop Road and Schofield Road, to be completed in four stages. The property was donated to the municipality on behalf of Carol and Karl Marcus, long-time residents and in honour and memory of their parents Beatrice and Harold Herlihey.

Christmas tradition returns

The annual Nutcracker staged by the Heritage Ballet dance studio has planned a comeback after a two-year forced hiatus because of the pandemic with a virtual twist. Although it won't have the more than 100 people involved like other years, the dance studio's founder and ballet choreographer Julie Barban was planning on having six her dancers perform five shortened dances. See this year's special performance at www.facebook.com/heritageballet.

Much of province goes dark

High winds knocked out power for more than 450,000 Hydro One customers in Ontario.

By Dec. 12, there were still 50,000 customers in Haliburton County without power. Power restoration was prioritized according to areas with higher concentration of customers.

Snowplow scramble

The combination of slip-and-fall lawsuits in urban areas, which are contributing to rising insurance premiums across the province, and rising operational costs are taking snow plow operators off the roads here in Haliburton County. It's left area residents scrambling to find snow plow operators this winter to plow driveways and private lanes. Businesses that continue to offer snow clearing services have seen an increase in the demands for their service. This issue isn't just for seasonal residents to gain access or an inconvenience. It can also pose a problem for emergency services, fuel delivery and other essential services.

Emergency departments remain open

On Dec. 21, Haliburton Highlands Health Services announced they had secured staff to ensure emergency departments in Haliburton County could remain open.

"At the moment, HHHS has secured enough agency nurses support to keep both emergency departments operating in the months ahead, though the ongoing shortage of staff across the province means we do not have many contingency plans," read the release, signed by Carolyn Plummer, HHHS president and CEO.

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. __ de Mornay, actress
 - 8. Surrenders
 - 13. Omission
 - 14. The white poplar
 - 15. They become butterflies
 - 19. Used to chop
 - 20. Select
 - 21. Volcanic craters
 - 22. Consumer price index
 - 23. Utilize
 - 24. "True Blood" actress Paquin
 - 25. Got up
 - 26. Sank in
 - 30. Retail
 - 31. Giants
 - 32. Most bald
 - 33. Changes color
 - 34. Unit of loudness
 - 35. Undresses
 - 38. Fathers
 - 39. Learned skill
 - 40. Remove qualification
 - 44. Covered with frost
 - 45. Speak up
 - 46. Nowhere to be found
 - 47. Part of surgery (abbr.)
 - 48. Type of wrap
 - 49. Church seating
 - 50. Mathematical figure
 - 51. College football conference
 - 55. Turkish officer title
 - 57. Organized body of knowledge
 - 58. Smooth and glossy
 - 59. Left

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Get back
 - 2. Pass or go by

- 3. Having a sharp taste
- 4. Midway between east and southeast
- 5. Cairo Regional Airport
- 6. Peace officer
- 7. Brings to life
- 8. Automotive vehicles
- 9. One point south of due east
- 10. Football position
- 11. Goes by
- 12. Most attractive
- 16. Road divisions
- 17. Not the sea
- 18. Small, faint constellation
- 22. Cabbage
- 25. Least frequent
- 27. Change slightly
- 28. A country in NE Africa
- 29. Metric units of measure
- 30. More coherent
- 32. Make uninteresting
- 34. Nausea
- 35. Institution of Oceanography
- 36. Of little value
- 37. Hindu model of the ideal man
- 38. Biblical exclamation
- 40. You throw it at a board
- 41. Be about to happen
- 42. Brutal
- 43. Opened one's mouth widely
- 45. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 48. Saturate
- 51. The woman
- 52. Someone who is highly skilled
- 53. A way to launch an attack on
- 54. Where golfers begin
- 56. Atomic number 58

Answers on page 22

Being thankful in West Guilford

community news

west guilford
Eleanor Cooper
754-2278

Having no news to impart, your local news gatherer is mostly writing her own reflections. The theme is in the form of thankfulness. A week ago I'd given away all the shortbread I'd made. How could I receive callers that were sure to come without that superior comestible? That comment is not my opinion. It's what the coordinator of Canoe FM has to say about it. Anyway, here I had only Christmas cake to offer should anyone appear.

Within an hour of this sad reflection a most welcome caller knocked on the door and what did she bring, but seven kinds of cookies! Some were delectable squares of cherry coconut, and several mince tarts (her own make). Needless to say, I sampled some almost immediately. Someone who comes regularly to feed the hounds was delighted to choose a favourite goodie. Another who came

offered her own Christmas cake to have with tea. Why worry about no offerings when gifts like these keep pouring in? Now, back from last minute shopping, what do I see but gifts of more cookies on my counter-top! Now that some of my family has appeared with, yes, her own brand of mouth-watering eatables I have even less concern about a supply to serve guests. To say thanks to each of these kind and generous people seems a small token for the gratitude I feel. I find myself delighted with not only the gifts but the chance to share them with people I love.

Of course, I am pleased that Christopher brought the more-than-I-asked-for turkey and lifted it into the fridge and that my daughter got it into the oven dish and stuffed it with the dressing I'd already made. My only gift is the happy ability to know how to receive with thankfulness. If I can pass this along to bring happiness to someone else then I guess I can say that my cup runneth over! Such is my reflection on the day before Christmas. May your happiness be as great as mine over Christmas and into the New Year.

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Wilberforce received Christmas cheer from EarlyON

MIKE RILEY

Staff Reporter

The Ontario EarlyON learning centres of the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County put on a festive outdoor event called Jingle Bells singalong and giveaway in Wilberforce on Dec. 21 at the library.

Held 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., the event featured carols and take home packages for participants.

Julie Bosker, the early childhood coordinator with OEYC (Ontario Early Years Centre) told the *Haliburton Echo* on Dec. 14 that they thought it would be nice to do some sort of in-person curbside giveaway during the last week of Christmas.

"We wanted to reach various communities within Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes where our EarlyON centres provides services to families. It also helps us promote the reopening of some of our programs, such as at the library and Lloyd Watson [Memorial] Centre in Wilberforce, which we are planning for January. Besides giving a packet of holiday materials and treats to the children, we thought a festive singalong would be fun. From that, the idea of purchasing enough bells for the children to use at the singalong and then take home with them was born," she says.

Bosker says that they ordered the bells for the children a couple of months ago, to ensure they arrived on time with the delivery and supply issues that have arisen due to COVID-19. The bells were procured from Scholars' Choice, and she says that Scholars' Choice also donated glue sticks for all the packages to be used with the other art supplies within the gift packs. A jingle bell committee was established and staff brainstormed ideas about what to put into the packets and who would take on various tasks. Since they are working from different offices and communities, Bosker says it has taken coordination, planning and teamwork.

Similar events were also held in 10 other locations throughout Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes from Dec. 20 to Dec. 22. Bosker said that the response was amazing and she looked forward to seeing everyone there on those dates.

The small but talented and determined OEYC staff worked as a team to pull everything together. Teams of two visited 11 communities from Dec. 20 to Dec. 22.

Bosker said each team came up with their own list of songs such as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Frosty the Snowman, We Wish you a Merry Christmas, and other favourites. They also took requests.

"We don't have to stick to holiday tunes either. Children often request their favourites like Sleeping Bunnies and If You're Happy and You Know It. We are open to families sharing songs from other celebrations too," she says.

On the day of the Jingle Bells singalong and giveaway on Dec. 21, the weather was cold but sunny and clear. Bosker and Debra Duncan, a program facilitator with EarlyON were there to welcome the kids and their families that came out for the festivities. Overall, a few families came by with their children but they were under the 25-person limit allowed by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition to singing, the children also got an activ-



Dana George, from left, with baby Ira, and her friend Candice Gliddon with her sons Michael and Carter, at the singalong and giveaway held at the Wilberforce Library on Dec. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. /MIKE RILEY staff

ity pack with hot chocolate, a cookie and some crafts for them to play with at home. Bosker and Duncan also handed out some gala bags that had been donated in the fall, which contained more children's items, an information booklet and a Foodland gift card for the parents.

In the new year, Bosker says they are hoping to be at the library and at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre on alternating weeks in Wilberforce to have Circle Time and Active Play events through the months of January and February if the COVID-19 restrictions allow.

"We're just hanging up some flyers to promote the program. We'd done them for years but with the pandemic we stopped. So, we're happy to get it going again, fingers crossed that we're allowed to do it in person in the new year," she says.

Jane Underwood's grandson Rhys Wood has been going to these EarlyON programs for a year and a half, according to Underwood, and he's always enjoyed it.

"It's great for all the kids around, especially now that it's so restrictive. Most of the kids I know that come out are pretty shy in their own way, but when they come out to these events, they really blossom. It's wonderful," she says.

As the last notes were sung, the gift bags were handed out to the families, and they began to depart,

“

It's great for all the kids around, especially now that it's so restrictive. Most of the kids I know that come out are pretty shy ... they really blossom. It's wonderful.

— Julie Bosker, EarlyOn early childhood coordinator

Duncan says that she thought that day's singalong went really well.

"These events really help families to connect and gives some of the younger kids especially, some normalcy," she says. "It's nice to spread the word and let families know that things can still be enjoyable, even with the times that we're having right now [with COVID-19]."

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Local Rotarians give gift of life this Christmas

NICK BERNARD
Staff Reporter

Getting vaccines to those who need them most has been part of The Rotary Club's worldwide mission to make each community in which it operates a better place. For more than a hundred years, millions of Rotarians the world over have been fostering relationships, spreading education, and working with aid organizations to help eliminate diseases like polio. Thanks to their efforts, almost three billion children have been vaccinated against the disease.

Here at home, members of the Rotary Club of Haliburton have been doing their part to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, working with local health units to manage the delivery of COVID vaccines into the arms of their friends, families, and neighbours.

To say thanks to its COVID-19 vaccination volunteers, the Rotary Club of Haliburton paid for the equivalent of 10 vaccines per volunteer and made the donation in their names this Christmas, contributing to Rotary's international effort to eradicate polio.

Ursula Devolin is the president of the local Rotary chapter. She says that with restrictions in place, it was a gift that made sense to give to the volunteers.

"We wanted a way to acknowledge what [the volunteers had] done ... all the hours that people had contributed to working at vaccination clinics," she said, calling it a fitting gift. "We can't gather, we can't do ... a celebration of some kind, so this just seemed like a way to acknowledge their efforts in a way that was suitable to what Rotary does."

According to Mike McGovern, who is the chairperson of the Rotary International PolioPlus Committee, 2021 had been "a great year for polio eradication."

"At this point, we can count the cases of wild polio virus this year on one hand," he said in an email to Rotary members. "It has been the unceasing focus of Rotarians around the world working with our partners to end polio once and for all and we have never been



Rotarian Dorothy Menton, who is a past Rotary Club of Haliburton member and past Haliburton resident, gives a vaccine to a young girl while working in India. Each year, Rotarians foster relationships around the globe to eliminate diseases like polio. /SUBMITTED

closer." Polio, a viral infection, was first discovered in the 1800s, with the first known outbreak in Canada occurring in 1910. According to the Canadian Public Health Association, more than 11,000 people were paralyzed by polio in five years. Until COVID, polio was considered the most serious national epidemic since the influenza epidemic in 1918. The polio vaccine was introduced in 1954. It took until 1994 for Canada to be declared polio-free.

The polio vaccine costs less than a dollar per dose. In addition to the cost of doses contributed per volunteer, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has an agreement with PolioPlus to match every dollar contributed two-to-one. This means a total of 4,500 doses will be going to 30 children, all on behalf of Rotary's volunteers in Haliburton.

"I just think it's our responsibility to pay these things

forward; make these things that are accessible to us, accessible to other people who struggle to get these things," Devolin said about what the gift means to her as a Rotarian. "I think we should be using our resources to help other people, as opposed to just getting more for ourselves."

And that, she said, is how the volunteers feel too. "This has been an extraordinary time, but as you watch the volunteers come and help ... manage the clinics, to get them through to the medical staff ... it's a nice thing to watch," she said. "It's just great to see that people are very happy to get this done and look out for each other."

Polio has been a priority for Rotary for more than 35 years. Today, the disease remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but work to eradicate the disease worldwide continues.

Plant sale proceeds to spring Water Festival back to life

STEPHEN PETRICK
Special to the Echo

If you're a friend of the environment, you have a chance to plant the seeds for a feel-good movement.

Local environmental organization FEEL (Friends of Ecological Environmental Learning) is holding its annual native plant sale.

The proceeds support programs such as the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Lakes Children's Water Festival. The 2020 festival, which was scheduled for September at the Kinark Outdoor Centre, was cancelled due to COVID, but FEEL hopes to bring it back this year, hopefully in the summer.

Supporters can pre-order plants from the group's website at ecoenvirolearn.org.

The plants come from two local nurseries and garden centres and are all native species to the Haliburton, Kawartha and Muskoka area, said sale co-ordinator Sable Robertson. The organization hopes the sale encourages more people to grow native species of plants, and

discourage non-native species that can damage the environment.

The products available include shrubs, perennials and other themed bundles of plants. They are inexpensive, as the most of the products are in the \$5 to \$10 price range.

The public has until March 31 to place an order. The plants are then available to pickup on May 14 at Haliburton Highlands Brewing.

FEEL is a non-profit organization that, in addition to the plant sale and water festival, is known for publication of *The Sprite*, a newsletter designed to enhance environmental and ecological education for children. It's also involved in a Canada-wide initiative to promote the use of rain barrels.

The annual water festival, however, is one of its marquee initiatives. It typically involves 40 to 50 activities, with a focus on educating students about water in terms of conservation, related technologies, protection and science, including a conscientious attitude to ensuring the cleanliness of water.

For more information on the festival, visit www.hmwaterfestival.ca/the-festival.

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Interviews will be held during the week
of January 17, 2022. Please send a detailed resume to:
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Highlands Summer Festival

AUDITION CALL

Auditions for this summer's productions of:

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The Importance of Being Earnest

Every Brilliant Thing

And interviews for

Early Stages Youth (10-14) Theatre Program
will be held Saturday & Sunday February 4 & 5, at
Haliburton United Church.

Audition packages are available at
www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

Be sure to review the package before booking your
audition time by calling Betty Mills at 705-457-1354 or
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Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The **Registered Nurse** earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice and one year or more of previous emergency department or specialty department experience is preferred. **Temporary accommodation will be provided.**

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earns \$22.25 - \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:
The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,
The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or
The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and
Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

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650 OBITUARIES



Nancy Hussey (nee Carson)

(Resident of Minden, Ontario)

Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Thursday evening, December 30, 2021 in her 77th year.

Beloved wife and best friend of Larry Hussey. Dear mother of Lynn (Eddy) and Carl (Diana). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Kaitlyn (Matt), Brendan (Kristin), Peyton. Dear sister of Evelyn, Tom, Lila, Donna, David and Patricia. Predeceased by sisters Mary, Mavis and Heather. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Nancy worked in the legal industry, real estate offices for many years and then worked at Pinestone Inn and Conference Centre in Haliburton. She enjoyed reading, relaxing at the cottage on Drag Lake and most of all spending time with her family.

Celebration Of Life

A Celebration of Nancy's life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Heart Stroke Foundation of Ontario would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Arlene Robinson (nee Dummitt)

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

December 29, 2021

Peacefully at her residence on Wednesday morning, December 29, 2021, in her 90th year.

Lovingly remembered by her daughter Sharon. Cherished by her grandchildren Christopher and spouse Robin and Sarah and spouse Nick and by her great grandson Damian. Predeceased by her parents Arnold and Bessie Dummitt (nee Cooper).

Visitation & Private Funeral Service

Friends and family were invited to call at **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209 on Monday afternoon, January 3, 2022 for Visitation from 1-2 p.m. A Private Funeral Service followed. Interment later at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to West Guilford Baptist Church or Minden Cat Angels Rescue would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Betty Traviss (nee Holder)

(Resident of Gooderham, Ontario)

December 20, 2021

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Betty Marie Traviss on December 20, 2021. Betty was born in Oshawa on June 18, 1937. Betty fought a long and hard battle with a terminal lung disease.

She is survived by her husband and love of her life, Daniel Traviss. They were married for 68 years. Survived by her children Darlene (Paul), Danny (Pat), William (Karen), and Richard (Robin). Lovingly remembered by her grandchildren and their partners, Michelle, Amanda, Ryan, Christa-Lei, Trevor, Shayne, Christopher (pre-deceased), Sarah, Jeremy, Natalie, Valarie, Selina, Simone, and her great grandchildren Andrew, Austin (pre-deceased), Kayla, Charla, Autumn, Nevaeh, Kaden, Keagan, Maci, Brianna, Nathan, Mariah, Hailey, Preston, Violet, Noah, Olivya, Madeline, and Isabella.

Betty was a devoted Christian, Wife, Mother, and Grandmother. Loved by everyone for her kindness and unconditional love. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She has returned home to her Lord & Saviour.

The family would like to thank Dr. Gilmour and all the nurses, PSW's, as well as Dan & staff from the Wilberforce pharmacy for all their excellent care and service.

Private Visitation & Celebration of Life

A private family visitation will take place at **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209. A Celebration of Life will take place on June 18, 2022, at the Gooderham Community Center at 2 p.m. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Pentecostal Church in Gooderham would be appreciated by the family.

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In Loving Memory of

Ward, Arthur Allen (Art)



who died peacefully on December 28, 2021 at Columbia Forest LTC in Waterloo. He was born on April 13, 1937 in Arnprior ON where he attended elementary and high school where his father Allen Ward was the principal. Art graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto with a diploma in Hotel Administration and a one season roster assignment with the Toronto Argonauts that would later earn him an induction into the Ryerson Sports Hall of Fame.

While attending Ryerson Art met Joan Douglas (interior design) whom he married in 1960 after fun-filled summers working together at Cleveland's House followed by multiple assignments with The Holiday Inn and Skyline Hotels. In 1967 Art and Joan settled down and bought the WigaMog Inn located in beautiful Haliburton, ON which they poured their heart and soul into for 27 years.

Art ardently served his community for most of his life earning such honours as Rotarian of the Year, Innkeeper of the Year, and Highlander of the Year. He served as President of several organizations including the Haliburton Rotary club, Lake Kashagawigamog Tourist Ass'n, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow twice, earned a Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Canada 150 Volunteer Award. He loved his Rotary Family dearly and is well remembered for his enthusiastic BBQ beef-on-a-bun fundraising talents, boisterous baritone singing, somewhat coercive auctioneering skills, and his generous hand at hosting dozens of colorful Rotary events – including one featuring 'horsecake'.

Provincially, Art served as Chairman of Resorts Ontario, as director of Ontario Place Corporation and on the board of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Ontario Hostelry Institute as well as the inaugural Innkeeper of the Pinestone Inn and Country Club (1-2-1 Corp). He was a champion for Tourism and a true "dyed-blue-in-the-wool" Tory as evidenced by his many friends and a long-term membership at the Albany Club in Toronto. To say that his political stripes were loud and obvious would be an understatement of epic proportions.

Art is also fondly remembered as a passionate 50+ year member of the annual Florida Snow-Bird Pilgrimage for resort owners. We cherish the wonderful memories of WigaMog Inn with many staff and guest families, lots of singing Rotarians, many loquacious political events, and most of all, his larger than life personality as he worked his way through every room he entered. He was an engaging mentor and an authentic friend leaving positive and powerful impressions on many he met.

He is predeceased by his brother James (Jim) Ward (1978) and is survived by his wife Joan, sister Nora Oldfield, daughters Kimberley and Lisa, son Christopher and 10 grandchildren. As per Art's wishes, there will be no service. Cremation will take place at the Erb & Good Funeral Home in Waterloo with his final resting place at the Ingoldsby United Cemetery near his beloved town of Haliburton. Charitable donations can be made to your local Rotary Club as "Service Above Self" is what Art was all about. His singing will be missed but the echoes will last forever. Thank you for everything dad, we love and miss you dearly.

*Those we love don't go away
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

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MUSIC

Platinum present for Pinestone

International celebrities,
the Jonas Brothers, give
resort very special thanks

ANGELICA BLENICH

Staff reporter

When Nick Jonas, the youngest member of the famous Jonas Brothers trio turned 17, he got a small envelope from his parents as his gift. Inside the envelope was a sentimental and well thought out present.

His parents had written him a note explaining that they had tracked down the piano he wrote the song, "A Little Bit Longer" on, and were presenting it to him for his birthday. The piano had been located in Haliburton at the Pinestone Resort.

"The brothers came and stayed at the resort back in 2007 to film the Disney movie Camp Rock," says Pinestone manager Cynthia Romanyk. "While they were here, Nick practised on our piano every day and came up with a hit song."

The group had a chance to enjoy the area once again when they returned this September to film the sequel to *Camp Rock*.

See **I would walk by** page 17



Cynthia Romanyk, manager at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre, holds up the platinum award given to the resort by the world-famous group The Jonas Brothers. The piano, pictured, which originally belonged to the resort, was given to youngest trio member Nick Jonas for his 17th birthday. Photo by Angelica Blenich.

ELECTRICITY

Hydro bills way too expensive: residents

JENN WATT

Editor

Celeste Lohrbach thought her hydro meter must have been broken.

In October, the Winona Lake cottager got a bill from Hydro One for \$3,145 on top of her quarterly payments, by far more money than she paid at her fulltime city home.

According to the company, she was using more than 24,000 kilowatts of power a year at her cottage near Loon Lake – five times what she used in 2004.


"They're saying I've used this electricity and therefore I owe them the money. When you add it all up it comes to \$5,000 for the year from last October to this October," Lohrbach said in an interview.

"I have a house here in Woodbridge, I have two apartments and it's a large house. The cottage is only 1,900 square feet and I don't use this kind of hydro. I use around \$150 a month in Woodbridge, so it's like, what's going on here?" she said.

She wonders if it has something to do with the new smart meter that was installed in July.

Lohrbach called Hydro One many times and insisted that her meter be tested for


See **You know** page 20



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TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD \$1,995,000




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KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

WENONA LAKE \$94,500



Fantastic lot in a quiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake. Adjacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional privacy.

MOUNTAIN STREET \$539,000



Fantastic home, situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood. This lovingly owned and maintained home features 3 bdrms and full bathrm on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area and kitchen. Step out to the sunroom and feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek and forest. Finished lower level with den/bedroom, renovated 3pc bathrm, and large rec room. Great sized lot and large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities.

Happy New Year!

To all our clients & colleagues, friends, & family,
we wish you the very best for health and
prosperity in **2022**

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